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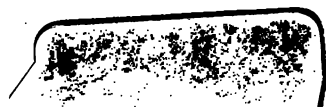
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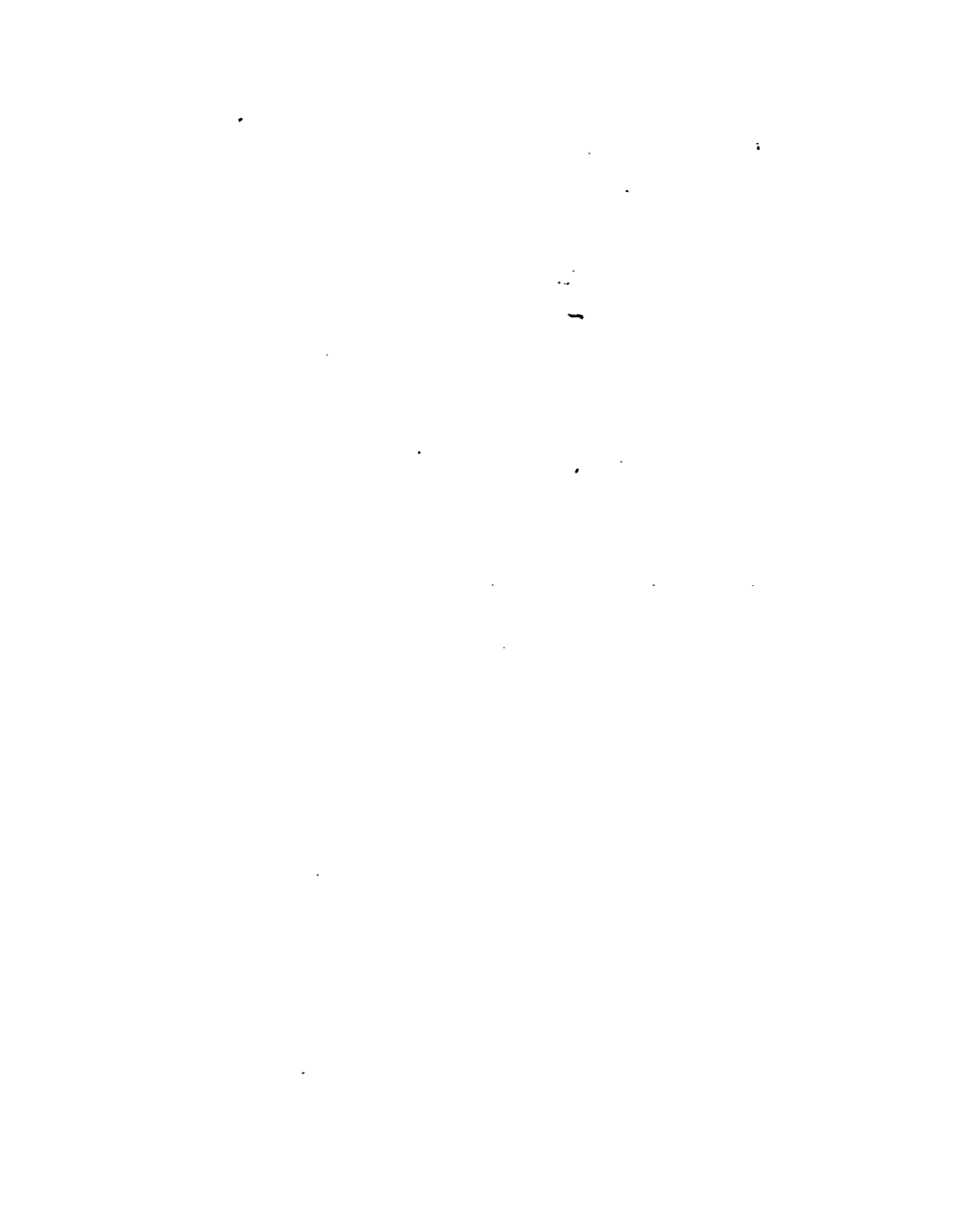
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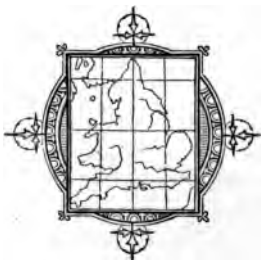




CHAMBERS'S  
HISTORICAL READERS

BOOK IV.

*ENGLAND FROM THE REVOLUTION TO 1832*



W. & R. CHAMBERS  
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# Preface.



THIS is the Fourth and last of a series of Historical Readers, the first consisting of Stories from English History, while the other three supply a continuous narrative from the beginning to the present time.

Like the others, the present Book seeks to bring into clear and graphic prominence the men and events that have had a decisive effect upon English History, omitting the details which burden the ordinary text-books. The Fourth Book, however, treats the time allotted to it with greater scope and fulness than was necessary or suitable for the preceding periods. Apart from other reasons, this is required by the nature of the subject. Up to the seventeenth century, English History is confined chiefly to our own islands, and to our dealings with the neighbouring countries of Western Europe. With the seventeenth century, and especially after the Revolution of 1689, our interests extend to the remotest parts of the globe.

It is a misfortune that down to Waterloo, this period is so much concerned with the ever-recurring wars with France. It is therefore all the more gratifying that, after Waterloo, there prevailed a general peace, during which it is our duty to trace the quiet and regular progress of the nation.

As in the other books, the narrative has been brightened by the insertion of poetical pieces, illustrative of historical incident and sentiment.

The following are the Books of the series :

I. STORIES FROM ENGLISH HISTORY.

II. ENGLAND TO 1327 A.D.

III. ENGLAND FROM 1327 TO THE REVOLUTION OF 1688 A.D.

IV. ENGLAND FROM THE REVOLUTION TO 1882.



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(The titles of poetical lessons are in *Italics*.)

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CHAMBERS'S  
HISTORICAL READERS.  
BOOK IV.

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ENGLAND FROM THE REVOLUTION TO 1882.

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**STUART PERIOD** (*continued*), 1688—1714.

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LESSON I.

**William III. and Mary, 1689—1694 A.D.**

1. Having alienated the hearts of his subjects, James II. found himself deserted in the hour of his extremity, and was obliged to seek refuge in France. He became a pensioner on the bounty of Louis XIV., and the remaining years of his life were spent in exile at the court of St Germain, near Paris.

2. The vacant throne of England was offered to William, Prince of Orange, James's nephew and son-in-law. To prevent all disputes for the future between the sovereign and the nation, a *Declaration of Rights* was drawn up, 13th Feb. 1689 A.D. stating the terms on which the offer of the crown was made. William having accepted the conditions contained in this famous declaration,

ascended the throne. Though his consort Mary, the eldest daughter of James, reigned along with him till her death in 1694, he possessed all real power.

3. One of the first proceedings of parliament, after William was crowned, was to pass the Declaration of Rights into a law; and it was afterwards known as the *Bill of Rights*. By the Bill of Rights, it was decided that the king has no power to set the laws aside, or to interfere with the course of justice; and that he cannot raise money, or maintain a standing army in time of peace, without the consent of parliament. It secured to the people full right to petition against grievances, and freedom to elect their own representatives; and to parliament full liberty of debate. It also decided that a Roman Catholic, or any one marrying a Roman Catholic, is incapable of wearing the crown. Such are the principal provisions of this third great charter of English freedom, by which William bound himself to rule. In this way, the questions which had so long been in debate between the English Parliament and the House of Stuart were finally settled.

4. It was hardly to be expected that William would be allowed to retain the crown, without some attempt being made by the Jacobites to recover it for their old master. A rising took place in Scotland, where the very name of Stuart was enough to rouse the Highlanders to enthusiasm. They were led by Viscount Dundee, who obtained a victory over the royal troops at the Pass of **Killiecrankie**; but he fell in the moment of victory, and *with him died all further hope of success.*

5. In Ireland, where the Catholics were with James to a man, a more determined attempt was made. He was assisted also by the French king,



Escape of James from the Battle of the Boyne.

both with money and officers. But the descendants of the English and Scotch settlers in the north and east of Ireland rallied to William's cause; and, in the heroic **Siege of Londonderry**, lasting for more than three months, foiled the attacks of James's army.

Next year, William himself crossed with an army, and completely routed the Irish forces  
**1st July** at the **Battle of the Boyne**. After this  
**1690 A.D.** defeat, James returned to France, and soon afterwards the war was brought to a termination favourable to the Protestant cause.

6. Having suffered defeat both in Scotland and Ireland, James had no hope except in help from France; and here also he was doomed to misfortune. Louis prepared a great expedition against England; but his fleet was encountered off **Cape**  
**1692 A.D. La Hogue** by the combined English and Dutch squadrons, and completely defeated. James had the mortification to be a witness of this disaster from the shore; and his disappointment was the more bitter, as he had been led to believe that the English fleet would join him, and make common cause against William. Thus all efforts made for James's restoration were completely frustrated, and William's seat on the throne made secure.

**William of Orange** was the ruler of the republic of Holland. His mother was a sister of James II.; and he married his cousin, James's elder daughter **Mary**. When James had offended the people of England by his tyranny and his unwise efforts to restore the Catholic religion, the leading men of the country invited William of Orange to come over for their deliverance. William accordingly landed at Torbay in 1688, and was soon joined by nearly the whole of England, whereupon James fled to France.

The first two great charters of English freedom were **Magna Charta**, won from King John (1215); and the **Petition of Right**, obtained from Charles I. (1628).

**The Jacobites**. For about sixty years after the family of James II. had lost the throne, it continued to have numerous supporters both in England and Scotland. They were called *Jacobites*, from *Jacobus*, the Latin word for James.

## LESSON II.

**William III., alone; 1694—1702 A.D.**

1. For many years, William had been engaged in a contest with the power of France. From his youth up, he had been the champion of Protestantism against Louis XIV.; and we cannot wonder if, when he became the head of a powerful state like England, his heart swelled with vast ambitions. Whatever his thoughts may have been, however, he suffered few to share them. He was cold and reserved in his demeanour, and admitted few people to his confidence; and these few were chiefly his Dutch friends. Although weak in body and emaciated in appearance, his spirit was unconquerable, and he was never known to quail in moments of danger.

2. The war was carried on in the Low Countries, where, however, William gained no brilliant victories—indeed he was sometimes defeated. But so patiently did he set about repairing his losses, and so undaunted was he by any mishap, that, although he fought against some of the most renowned generals of the age, he retired from his campaigns with honour; and even his foes could not withhold the praise due to his high qualities as a commander. The war was brought to a close by the *Treaty of Ryswick*, by which Louis 1697 A.D. promised, among other things, no longer to countenance the claims of James to the English throne.



3. The closing years of William's life were not happy. His frame was enfeebled by disease, and it was only his indomitable spirit which enabled him to bear up against it. The Jacobites were continually plotting against him, and even many who pretended to be his friends were carrying on a secret correspondence with the exiled family. Foreign troubles also were appearing in the distance. In the year 1700, Charles, king of Spain, died childless, and bequeathed his vast possessions to a grandson of Louis XIV.; and William had the mortification of feeling that his great enemy would become more powerful than ever, if this arrangement were carried out.

4. In the year 1701, the only surviving son of the Princess Anne died, and it became necessary again to change the succession. For this purpose the *Act of Settlement* was passed, by which, on the death of Anne, the crown was to devolve on 1701 A.D. the Electress Sophia of Hanover, a descendant of James I. through the female line. In the following year, as William was taking riding exercise, his horse stumbled and threw him, whereby his collar-bone was broken. He gradually sank under the shock, and died a few weeks afterwards.

5. In spite of his foreign habits, and his partiality for his Dutch friends, William had gained the respect if not the affection of the most thoughtful men of the nation. By his unflagging industry, his far-seeing foreign policy, and his untiring energy in the field, he had succeeded in rousing again in the breasts of Englishmen a spirit which had long been dormant—a spirit of patriotism, enterprise, and self-reliance.

## LESSON III.

**Queen Anne, 1702—1714 A.D.**

1. William III. was succeeded by Anne, the second daughter of James II. Anne was a staunch Protestant, and for this reason her accession was highly acceptable to the Whigs; while the fact of her being an Englishwoman and a member of the old dynasty, was equally pleasing to the Tories and Jacobites.

2. Anne was but slightly qualified by personal gifts to be a brilliant sovereign. She was neither handsome nor clever; at the same time, she had many amiable qualities. She was a warm friend to the Church of England, and had firmly resisted all attempts for her conversion that had been made during her father's reign. She set aside a considerable portion of her income for the benefit of the poorer clergy. This fund has ever since borne the name of 'Queen Anne's Bounty,' and has fulfilled the kindly intentions of its founder, and been of great advantage to the Church. Upon the whole, it may fairly be said of her that she justly merited the title which, from that time to the present, has been frequently applied to her, of 'Good Queen Anne.'

3. Anne's consort was Prince George of Denmark, a well-meaning, but very dull man, who was not able to render the queen much assistance in performing her royal duties. She was a model wife, however,

and always displayed the most affectionate solicitude for his comfort. Though there had been a numerous family from this union, it had been the sad fate of the queen to see one after another of her children sink



Lady and Gentleman of the Period of  
Queen Anne.

into an early grave; and shortly before her accession to the crown, the last 'lamb of the flock' had been taken. So great an accumulation of griefs might well have crushed even a stronger mind than Anne's; she had, however, borne each successive loss with a patience and resignation which had

won for her the respect and sympathy of all classes.

4. In her girlhood Anne had formed a strong friendship with a young lady of the court named Sarah Jennings; and as years passed away, and troubles gathered around her, that friendship became closer and closer, and she could scarcely ever be parted from her favourite. Sarah was married to John Churchill, afterwards the famous Duke of Marlborough, and doubtless her great influence with the queen assisted in smoothing her husband's path to eminence. But being naturally of a haughty *and imperious* temper, and presuming upon the

queen's favour and her husband's great services, the duchess forgot the respect due to her sovereign, and gave way to unbecoming and domineering habits. Meek-spirited as the queen was, and great as had been her fondness for her favourite, this conduct gradually produced a coolness, finally leading to a complete estrangement, and the duchess was deprived of the various lucrative posts which she had long held.

5. The break-up of this friendship had serious consequences. The Duchess of Marlborough's place in the queen's confidence was taken by a humble attendant named Abigail Hill, afterwards Mrs Masham. Possessed of great tact and a most insinuating address, Abigail contrived, by playing upon Anne's foibles, to gain her confidence. In this position she introduced her relative Harley, afterwards Earl of Oxford, to the queen. In conjunction with St John, Viscount Bolingbroke, Harley made use of the opportunity thus obtained to undermine the influence of Anne's old ministers, Godolphin, Somers, and Marlborough, and to bring the Tories into power.

6. The latter years of Anne's life were embittered by the jarrings and wranglings of Whigs and Tories; the one party endeavouring to secure her support for the Elector of Hanover as her successor; and the other striving to obtain her assistance in restoring the exiled family in the person of her half-brother, afterwards known as the Chevalier or the Pretender. Her position was indeed, a difficult one. On the one side were the claims of blood, and on the other her strong affection for the Protestant faith, which the

Pretender could not be persuaded to embrace. So events drifted till the year 1714, when, borne down by bodily disease, and harassed in mind by the importunities of hostile factions, the good Queen Anne at length passed to her rest.

7. The age of Anne has frequently been termed the Golden Age. In many respects it merits the title. In war, the brilliant victories of Marlborough raised England to the highest pinnacle of fame, and she was once more respected as in the days of Elizabeth and Cromwell. In domestic affairs, among other useful measures, the Act of Union between England and Scotland stands pre-eminent, as being the first step towards removing old enmities, and knitting together two spirited and enterprising nations, to the lasting benefit of both. In literature, the names of Addison, Steel, and Swift, of Pope and Prior, are famous; while in science the intellectual giant, Isaac Newton, towers above the throng.

The names **Whig** and **Tory** were first given to the two great parties in English politics in 1679. During the first half of the eighteenth century, one of the chief points of difference between the two parties was, that many of the Tories were in favour of the exiled House of Stuart, while the Whigs supported the House of Hanover.

**Elector of Hanover.** This was the son of the Electress Sophia. He became king of England under the name of George I.

**Pretender.** When James II. died in exile, he left a son, also called James, who inherited his claim to the crown of England. He was called the *Pretender*, because he *pretended* to be king of England.

**The Treaty of Union,** by which the parliaments of England and Scotland were united, was passed in 1707.





Duke and Duchess of Marlborough.

#### LESSON IV.

##### **The Duke of Marlborough.**

1. The war-clouds which had been gathering on the continent towards the close of William III.'s reign, burst in all their fury soon after his death. There were two competitors for the throne of Spain, a grandson of Louis XIV., and the Archduke Charles,

son of the emperor of Germany. It was felt by the statesmen of that time, that the union of the crowns of France and Spain in one family would make France too powerful, and endanger the liberties of Europe. England had an additional grievance. On the death of James II., in 1701, Louis had formally recognised his son, the Pretender, as he was called in England, as James III. A *Grand Alliance* of England, Holland, and Germany was 1702 A.D. therefore formed against France; and the war which followed is generally known in history as the *War of the Spanish Succession*.

2. William III. had striven manfully to curb the power of France. At the best, however, he had just been able to hold it in check. But in the great struggle which now took place, there rose into unequalled prominence the most famous man and greatest general of the age, the Duke of Marlborough. By his brilliant successes, he humbled the pride of France, 'signally retrieved the ancient glories of England,' and gained for himself a foremost place in the roll of England's commanders.

3. John Churchill was born in the year 1650, and was brought up as a page in the family of the Duke of York. As he grew to manhood, he obtained a commission in the army; but it was not till the reign of Anne that he found full scope for the display of his splendid military talents. In person he was extremely handsome, and the fascination of his manners was irresistible. Nature had gifted him with great sweetness and placidity of temper, and *neither in the heats of party strife nor in the fury*

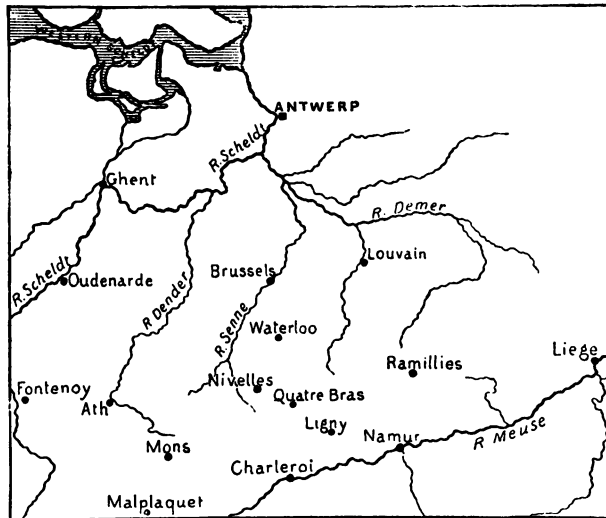
of battle was anything ever known to ruffle his composure. At court he made the acquaintance of the beautiful Sarah Jennings, to whom he was eventually married. Both he and his wife were close personal friends of the Princess Anne, and possessed in a great degree the confidence of James; and their defection from his cause on the landing of the Prince of Orange cut him to the quick. William fully recognised Churchill's great abilities; but he seems to have been jealous of his Jacobite leanings, and to have distrusted him on that account.

4. On the accession of Anne, and the breaking out of the War of the Spanish Succession, Churchill, now Duke of Marlborough, was appointed commander-in-chief of the allied armies. He was the life and soul of the Grand Alliance, which, but for him, would soon have fallen to pieces, and left Europe at the mercy of France. He was greatly harassed by the jealousy of his Dutch and German colleagues, but his admirable tact and temper enabled him to overcome all difficulties. One of the imperial leaders was a man after his own heart. This was Prince Eugene of Savoy, who was second only to Marlborough himself in military capacity. A close friendship was formed between these two renowned commanders, which terminated only with their lives.

5. Year by year, in siege after siege, and battle after battle, Marlborough drove back the armies of Louis, and wrested the Low Countries from his grasp. In the great victory of **Blenheim**, 1704 A.D. he annihilated the French army of the Danube, and gave another century of life to the



German Empire. On his return to England after this campaign, honours were heaped upon him. He received the thanks of both Houses of Parliament, and, as a reward for his splendid victory, the stately palace of Blenheim, near Woodstock, which is still in the possession of his descendants, was built for him at the public expense. The victory of



Blenheim was followed in succeeding campaigns by the triumphs of **Ramillies**, **Oudenarde**, and **Malplaquet**, which further crippled the power of France, and added to the fame of Marlborough. It has been said of him by a great French writer, that he never besieged a fortress which he did not take, never *fought a battle* which he did not win, and never

conducted a negotiation which he did not bring to a successful issue.

6. In the course of time, however, the war became unpopular in England. After the Tories came to power in 1710, Marlborough was accused of having prolonged the war for his own purposes, and of having availed himself of his position as commander-in-chief to amass a large fortune. He was consequently disgraced, and deprived of his high offices. Not long afterwards, England abandoned the Grand Alliance, and concluded the war with the **Peace of Utrecht**. But when party passions had cooled down, the right of Marlborough to take rank as one of England's greatest soldiers was fully recognised; and when he was finally laid among the illustrious dead in Westminister Abbey, all England mourned his loss.

**Chief Provisions of the Peace of Utrecht:** (1) The grandson of Louis XIV. remained king of Spain, but the crowns of France and Spain were never to be united; (2) France abandoned the cause of the Pretender; (3) England retained possession of Gibraltar, Minorca, Newfoundland, and Nova Scotia.

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## LESSON V.

### **The Battle of Blenheim.**

It was a summer evening :  
 Old Kaspar's work was done ;  
 And he, before his cottage door,  
 Was sitting in the sun ;  
 And by him sported on the green  
 His little grandchild Wilhelmine.

She saw her brother Peterkin  
Roll something large and round,  
That he, beside the rivulet,  
In playing there had found ;  
She ran to ask what he had found,  
That was so large, and smooth, and round.

Old Kaspar took it from the boy,  
Who stood expectant by ;  
And then the old man shook his head,  
And with a natural sigh,  
'Tis some poor fellow's skull,' said he,  
'Who fell in the great victory.

'I find them in my garden, for  
There's many hereabout ;  
And often when I go to plough,  
The ploughshare turns them out ;  
For many thousand men,' said he,  
'Were slain in that great victory.'

'Now tell us what 'twas all about,'  
Young Peterkin he cries,  
And little Wilhelmine looks up  
With wonder-waiting eyes ;  
'Now tell us all about the war,  
And what they killed each other for?'

'It was the English,' Kaspar cried,  
'Who put the French to rout ;  
But what they killed each other for,  
I could not well make out.  
But everybody said,' quoth he,  
'That 'twas a famous victory.

'My father lived at Blenheim then,  
Yon little stream hard by;  
They burned his dwelling to the ground,  
And he was forced to fly:  
So with his wife and child he fled,  
Nor had he where to rest his head.

'With fire and sword the country round  
Was wasted far and wide;  
And many a wretched mother then  
And new-born baby died;  
But things like that, you know, must be  
At every famous victory.

'They say it was a shocking sight,  
After the field was won;  
For many thousand bodies here  
Lay rotting in the sun!  
But things like that, you know, must be  
After a famous victory.

'Great praise the Duke of Marlborough won,  
And our good prince Eugene.'  
'Why, 'twas a very wicked thing!'  
Said little Wilhelmine.  
'Nay—nay—my little girl,' quoth he,  
'It was a famous victory!'

'And everybody praised the Duke,  
Who this great fight did win.'  
'But what good came of it at last?'  
Quoth little Peterkin.  
'Why, that I cannot tell,' said he,  
'But 'twas a famous victory.'

Southey.

## LESSON VI.

**The Capture of Gibraltar, 1704 A.D.**

1. Brilliant as were the victories of Marlborough on land during the War of the Spanish Succession, they were rivalled in some instances by the achievements of our fleet. One of these exploits has never been surpassed, even in the glorious annals of the British navy.

2. The fleet, under the command of Admiral Sir George Rooke, was cruising in the Mediterranean, off the coast of Spain, when an attempt was made by the admiral to capture Barcelona; but the number of troops landed for the purpose proving inadequate, nothing was left for them but to re-embark and sail away. Both officers and men chafed sorely at this failure, and longed for a chance of engaging in some enterprise which would retrieve their honour, and add lustre to the English name.

3. An opportunity soon presented itself. Frowning in the distance was the famous fortress of Gibraltar, which, from the strength of its position, was generally considered impregnable. In a council of war, it was resolved to make a dash at it. Fortune, as usual, favoured the brave. The Spaniards, with their wonted negligence, and doubtless trusting also to the great strength of the place, kept only a small garrison in it. The English landed a force on the narrow neck of land which connects the 'Rock' *with the mainland*, and commenced siege operations.

Small as the defending force was, it might easily have held such a strong post until the arrival of help. But as it happened, a saint's day was at hand, and many of the sentries, trusting to the great steepness of the cliffs, left their posts for a while to



The Rock of Gibraltar.

attend mass in the various churches. While they were praying for the destruction of the heretics, the heretics in the shape of English Jack Tars, who had no patience with regular siege operations, were swarming up the sides of the rock with as much agility as if they had been mounting the rigging of their own ships. When the Spaniards returned from mass, they found the chief points of defence in the hands of the English, and were compelled to surrender.

4. Thus by sheer intrepidity and dash was this great fortress acquired. The footing thus obtained

has ever since been firmly held, in spite of all attempts made to dislodge us; and the flag of England continues to float proudly over Gibraltar, which still remains one of our chief strongholds, and one of our principal calling-stations in the great highway of commerce between England and the East.

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## LESSON VII.

### **The Union between England and Scotland, 1707 A.D.**

1. To the statesmen of Queen Anne's reign, the honour is due of passing the great measure for the union of England and Scotland into one kingdom. Ever since the accession of James I., one sovereign had reigned over both countries; but unfortunately the union of the two crowns had not sufficed to allay the ill-feeling which for centuries had existed between the two peoples. They were still two separate nations, each having its own parliament and its own laws. During William III.'s reign, an event took place which, although it threatened at first to widen the gulf which already existed, greatly helped to bring about the famous Act of Union, which has conferred lasting benefits upon both nations.

2. In the year 1698, the Scotch had formed a company for the purpose of establishing a colony upon the Isthmus of Darien in Central America. This spot seemed designed by nature to be the centre of *the commercial* enterprise of the world; and the

Scottish people, high and low, took up the project with the greatest eagerness. A body of adventurers left the shores of Scotland to carry out the undertaking which, as they fondly expected, was to confer the greatest commercial advantages upon their country. They set sail with high hopes; but alas! these hopes were doomed to disappointment. The climate proved unhealthy, and the natural obstacles great. These drawbacks might have been overcome; but from the first the scheme was discouraged by William's government, on the plea that it would be an invasion of the trading privileges of the English East India Company; and the governors of the British possessions in the West Indies were forbidden to give aid of any kind to the struggling colonists. To add to their misfortunes, the jealousy of the Spaniards was aroused; the little colony was attacked by them, and compelled to withdraw from the country. Thus ended the enterprise from which such great things had been expected. Of all the brave band of adventurers, not more than thirty ever saw their own country again.

3. The Scotch were greatly exasperated at the failure of the scheme, and their feelings against England were singularly fierce and hostile. They passed a measure called the Act of Security, which provided that the next king of Scotland should be a different person from the king of England, unless they were assured of a full share of the commercial privileges of the sister-country. They seized a vessel belonging to the East India Company which had cast anchor in the Firth of Forth, and put to



death the captain and several of the crew on a charge of piracy, of which they were not really guilty.

4. After such occurrences as these, the statesmen of both countries thought it was high time that something should be done to unite the two countries more closely together. Accordingly, in the year 1705, commissioners were appointed from both nations to prepare the necessary articles of union. After many long and tedious discussions, in which Lord Somers, to whom most of the credit of the measure is due, showed admirable tact and management, a treaty was at length agreed upon. It provided not only that there should be one king for both countries, but also one parliament, and one executive government, by which all national acts, such as declaring war against foreign powers, and making treaties, should be performed. Each country was to retain its own peculiar laws, and its own established form of worship. In trade and commerce, the Scotch were to have equal privileges with the English. There was to be one national flag, and one Great Seal. After long debates, the treaty was finally adopted by the parliaments of both England and Scotland, and then the Scottish parliament, as such, ceased to exist. Thereafter the Scotch were represented in the imperial parliament by forty-five members in the House of Commons, and sixteen in the House of Lords.

5. Thus did England and Scotland, so long and sadly at variance, become at last one kingdom—the Kingdom of Great Britain. The Union was for some *time unpopular* in Scotland; but as years passed

away, this great and healing measure gradually removed the enmities of ancient days, and the two peoples became knitted together in the bonds of peace and good-fellowship. The present peaceful condition of the Scottish Borders, as contrasted with the warlike unrest of former days, is beautifully described by Sir Walter Scott :

Sweet Teviot ! on thy silver tide  
 The glaring bale-fires blaze no more ;  
 No longer steel-clad warriors ride  
 Along thy wild and willowed shore.



Scene in Tweed Valley.

Where'er thou wind'st, by dale or hill,  
 All, all is peaceful, all is still,  
 As if thy waves, since Time was born,  
 Since first they rolled upon the Tweed,  
 Had only heard the shepherd's reed,  
*Nor started at the bugle-horn.*

The old rivalry of arms has given place to the nobler rivalry of progress in the arts of peace; and the descendants of the men who fought at Bannockburn and Flodden now press on side by side—the pioneers of civilisation to the remotest ends of the earth.

**East India Company.** This was a company of English merchants, to whom the English government (1600) granted the sole right of trading with East India. In course of time the Company became very powerful, and conquered the most of India, which they continued to govern till 1858.

**Spaniards.** At that time Central America, as well as Mexico and the whole of South America except Brazil, belonged to Spain. Those countries had been discovered and colonised by the Spaniards, and did not separate from the mother-country till the beginning of the present century.

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## HOUSE OF HANOVER,

FROM 1714.

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### LESSON VIII.

**George I., 1714—1727 A.D.**

1. The death of Queen Anne was a crisis in the history of England. There was great uncertainty as to the proper person who should fill the vacant throne; and a timely display of energy by the leaders of the one party or the other, was only required to carry the whole nation along with them.

2. Towards the close of Anne's reign, the hopes of the Jacobites ran high. The restoration of the *Stuarts* seemed almost easy of attainment. The

*hour* had indeed come, but not the *man*. Had the Pretender shown the same dash and intrepidity which his unfortunate son exhibited thirty years afterwards under conditions that were hopeless, he might have had as glorious a home-coming as his uncle, Charles II., on the eventful 29th of May 1660. But the golden opportunity slipped away. Acting with a vigour and decision which contrasted strongly with the irresolution of their opponents, the Whigs at once proceeded to carry out the provisions of the Act of Settlement, by bringing over George, the Elector of Hanover; and in a few short weeks, 'a stranger filled the Stuarts' throne,' and the sceptre passed for ever from their grasp.

3. George, Elector of Hanover, who now crossed the sea to fill the throne of Great Britain, was the son of the Electress Sophia of Hanover, and consequently a descendant of James I. on the female side. He was fifty-four years of age at the time of his accession to the crown. He showed no exultation when informed of his high destiny, but seemed, indeed, rather disappointed than otherwise at having to leave his small German court. He was dull and heavy in appearance, and awkward and surly in his manners. He showed no disposition to conciliate his new subjects, but appeared to be rather annoyed than otherwise by the joyous reception accorded him on his arrival. To the day of his death, he could not speak a sentence of English; and as most of his ministers were equally ignorant of German, they had to converse in Latin when discussing the *affairs* of state.

4. George I. knew little of the people over whom he came to rule. There was nothing in common between his tastes and theirs, and he was never really at home amongst them. He therefore surrounded himself with his old German friends and favourites, whom he ennobled and enriched at the expense of the English. He paid frequent visits to Hanover, and never seemed so happy as when the affairs of state allowed of his making a long stay in his old home. The business of the state was, however, ably conducted by Townshend, Stanhope, Walpole, and others; and the country was fortunate in being allowed to manage its own affairs. The king had been a despot in Hanover, but in England he wisely yielded to the guidance of his ministers.

5. The reign of the first George was not remarkable for any very stirring events either at home or abroad, with the exception, perhaps, of the Jacobite insurrection of 1715. This insurrection, however, was easily suppressed, and it is but fair to say, that the new king displayed great clemency towards the vanquished rebels. The South Sea Scheme in 1720 produced great excitement throughout the country, and its collapse brought much suffering into many households. Still, the nation made steady progress during this reign; and there can be no doubt that the rule of George was more suited to the interests of England than would have been the government of the Chevalier James Stuart, who had been educated in French notions of kingly power.

6. The king died suddenly, while on a journey to *Hanover*, on the 10th of June 1727.

## LESSON IX.

**The Insurrection of 1715.**

1. Having been raised to the throne by the Whigs, George I. naturally intrusted them with power, and Queen Anne's ministers were dismissed. Steps were at once taken to impeach several of the leading Jacobites. Lord Bolingbroke and the aged Duke of Ormond, seeing that their lives were in danger, fled to the continent, and their estates were forfeited. The severe measures that were taken had the effect of driving the friends of the exiled family to despair, and of determining them to risk an insurrection at all hazards. The death of Louis XIV. of France about this time was a severe blow to the Jacobite cause, as it put an end to all hopes of obtaining aid from France in their enterprise. The friends of the Pretender in England, however, gave such encouraging reports of the anti-Hanoverian feeling in different parts of the country, that it was at length resolved to appeal to arms.

2. In Scotland, the Earl of Mar raised an army of ten thousand men for the Pretender, and held possession of the northern part of the kingdom for nearly a year. The opposing force was commanded by the Duke of Argyle. The two armies came into conflict eventually on **Sheriff Muir**, near Stirling. The battle which took place did not result in a decided victory for either side, although the fruits of the action remained with the Hanoverians, as the Earl of Mar retreated northwards immediately afterwards.

3. In the sister-country, the result of the insurrection was far more disastrous to the cause of the Pretender. A rising, headed by the Earl of Derwentwater and Mr Forster, took place in the north of England. The call to arms was obeyed by a few fox-hunting Jacobite squires, with their relations and dependants, but the great body of the people held aloof. Being joined by a mixed force of Lowland Scotch Jacobites and Highlanders, the insurgents marched by way of Kendal into Lancashire, where they hoped to meet with considerable support; but in this expectation they were disappointed. Hearing that a royal force under Wills and Carpenter was approaching, they took possession of the town of **Preston**, and prepared for defence by barricading the streets. In the siege which took place, Mr Forster proved himself a most incompetent commander; and in a short time the town was surrendered, and nearly all the defenders, with their leaders, were made prisoners. This disaster to the Pretender's cause occurred on the very same day that Argyle's and Mar's Highlanders were rushing upon each other on the field of Sheriff Muir. Notwithstanding the high hopes of the Jacobites, the south of England had remained perfectly quiet, not a man taking up arms in their cause. Thus the enterprise completely failed both in England and Scotland.

4. Shortly after these events, the Pretender himself landed in Scotland with a few adherents. He was too late, however. Indeed, his presence, instead of reviving the confidence of his followers, had the *effect rather* of dispiriting them the more. They had

expected him to be accompanied by a strong body of French auxiliaries, and instead of that, he was almost alone. Truth to say, he was not a person calculated to inspire enthusiasm among his adherents. He was reserved and silent; he spoke no cheering word; nor did he attempt any daring scheme to retrieve his fortunes. He went through the empty form of being crowned at Perth, although it was evident to thoughtful observers that all chance of his really becoming king had vanished for ever. In a very short time he saw the utter hopelessness of prolonging the struggle; and taking with him a small body of his most faithful retainers, he departed from Scotland as suddenly as he had come, leaving his misguided followers to their fate. Derwentwater and Lord Kenmure suffered death upon the scaffold; while great numbers of their humbler followers were shipped off to the West Indian plantations, to lament under the burning sun of the tropics their mistaken fidelity to an ill-fated race.

5. Thus ended the insurrection of 1715. There never was at any time much heart in it. The leaders were incompetent. James himself was not a fighting prince, nor even a wise one. Had he possessed these qualities, he might have won the throne of his ancestors. As it was, the enterprise was doomed to failure; and he did not even gain that respect and sympathy always due to a man who, though unfortunate, fights bravely for an inheritance of which he has been deprived for no fault of his own.

**Plantations.** These were large estates owned by Englishmen in the West Indies, and in which the labourers were generally negro slaves.



## LESSON X.

**The South Sea Bubble, 1720 A.D.**

1. How pleased is a child at the sight of a soap-bubble! How he laughs and claps his tiny hands, as he marks its golden hues flashing in the sun's rays! How he longs to possess the treasure! till, in a moment, it bursts, and vanishes from his sight!

2. In the year 1720, the people of England went into transports over a huge bubble that was being blown into a gigantic size before them. It was not a soap-bubble; it was not so harmless. It was a grand scheme by which everybody who took a share in it was to become rich without any trouble. The scheme was set afloat by a company of merchants, called the South Sea Company. They had obtained a charter from the government, granting them the sole privilege of trading in the South Seas with the Spanish-American possessions. It was given out that their trading-vessels would be able to bring home cargoes of gold, silver, and precious stones from the mines of Mexico and Peru, and from the islands of the Pacific, which were reputed to be teeming with almost fabulous wealth.

3. All classes of people displayed the greatest eagerness to purchase shares. A rumour was set afloat that England was about to exchange Gibraltar and other places for some of the Spanish possessions. By such artful stories as this, the infatuation was kept up, until, at last, people in some instances actu-

ally gave as much as a thousand pounds for a share, which originally had only cost a hundred. The mania to get rich affected both high and low. To obtain shares in the company the merchant emptied his money-bags, and the poor widow her little hoard of savings; and each expected to receive interest a hundred-fold.

4. When the gold-fever was at its height, cautious and crafty persons sold their shares, and thus made fortunes for themselves out of the ignorance and avarice of the multitude. It was even said that some of the king's ministers adopted this questionable method of acquiring wealth. In a short time, the price of the stock began to decline, and soon fell rapidly. People perceived they had been deluded with false hopes, and those who had spent whole fortunes to procure the shares, now found that they had lost enormously. In three weeks, the *bubble*, as it was called, burst; thousands who had fondly fancied themselves on the high-road to wealth, were now reduced to a state of miserable poverty; and throughout all England there was a wail of disappointment and despair.



Watchmen of the period.

5. The government, acting on the advice of Sir

Robert Walpole, adopted measures for relieving the distress as much as possible, by taking up a portion of the liabilities which had been incurred by the South Sea Company. But when they had done all they could, there still remained a terrible amount of suffering which could not be reached by any financial schemes that could be devised. In the first blow of disappointment, some had committed suicide, and others had become hopeless maniacs, and for long years afterwards many a family had cause to remember with bitterness the memorable South Sea Bubble.

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## LESSON XI.

### **Sir Robert Walpole.**

(BORN 1676 ; DIED 1745.)

1. Sir Robert Walpole was the most distinguished statesman in the reigns of the first two Georges. He was the son of a country gentleman in Norfolk ; but, though he greatly loved the kind of life led by country squires of that day, namely, the chase in the morning, and the bottle in the evening, yet at an early age he seems to have felt that nature had given him talents which would enable him to shine in a higher sphere than the hunting-field. He therefore determined to push his way in political life.

2. With this object in view, he entered parliament in the latter part of William III.'s reign, being only twenty-four years of age when he first set foot in the place where he was destined to play such a conspicuous part. He attained no great distinction for

some time. He was not one of those gifted orators who could hold the House of Commons spell-bound by his eloquence; but although not brilliant, his talents were solid, and behind all was an indomitable will and steadfast purpose, which, in the end, made him one of the greatest of English statesmen.

3. During Queen Anne's reign, Walpole's abilities attracted the notice of Godolphin and Marlborough, who advanced him to important posts in the government; and he showed, even thus early, a remarkable capacity for dealing with financial questions. On the accession of George I, he rose to still higher influence. So great was the confidence of the public in his financial ability, that when the South Sea Scheme collapsed, all eyes were turned towards him as the statesman most capable of alleviating that great national calamity. The able measures which he suggested for this purpose fully vindicated the general opinion of his skill; and shortly afterwards he attained the summit of his ambition by being appointed Prime Minister of England. This position he held for over twenty years, in spite of all the efforts which his political opponents made from time to time to dislodge him.

4. During his long tenure of power, Walpole managed the House of Commons with admirable tact. He had two great faults: he secured the votes of members in many instances by offering them bribes of money or preferments; and he was so fond of power, and of keeping it all to himself, that he drove all the able and rising men into opposition. The members of this opposition used to call them-

selves 'patriots,' while Walpole contemptuously spoke of them as the 'boys.'

5. But it must in fairness be said of him, that if he was fond of power, he used it, as far as in him lay, to further the best interests of the nation. He was peculiarly a peace minister, and had the greatest aversion to engage in any warlike enterprise. All his measures had for their object the advancement of trade and commerce, which during his premiership progressed with steady strides. It was indeed fortunate for the country, that at this time, when rest was so urgently needed after the long wars of William and Anne, a minister of his pacific temper should have been at the helm of affairs for so long a period.

6. Walpole's intense desire for peace led eventually to his downfall. Stories had been brought home from time to time by merchant-traders of the ill-treatment to which they were subjected by the Spaniards in the American colonies. The temper of the nation was at last roused, and a clamour was raised for war with Spain. Walpole did all he could to avert it, but the current of feeling was too strong for him, and he was at last reluctantly compelled to issue a declaration of war. When this event took place, the bells of London rang out a joyful peal. 'Ay,' said the minister, 'they may *ring* their bells now; but in a short time they will be *wringing* their hands.' His prognostications were to some extent fulfilled; for, although some successes were achieved, it was at the cost of great expenditure in men and money.

7. The fall of Walpole was not long in coming after

this. Taking advantage of the unpopularity which his lukewarm conduct of the war had brought upon him, his enemies assailed him in parliament with great violence, and in the year 1742 he was compelled to resign. He was raised to the peerage with the title of Earl of Orford. Out of harness, he did not survive long. He was not a literary character, and could therefore find no solace in books. Public life had been to him as the breath of his nostrils, and he became miserable when he no longer had anything to do. He expired in the year 1745, at the age of sixty-nine.

8. It cannot be doubted that Walpole was a very able minister, though his system of bribery must always be condemned. But it should not be forgotten that the age in which he lived was corrupt; and in judging of his public actions, we must not apply the same high standard of purity as we do to the characters of statesmen of the present day. As a private gentleman, Walpole was highly esteemed. He was stanch and true in his friendships, and in the privacy of the social circle was a most agreeable companion.

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## LESSON XII.

### George II., 1727—1760 A.D.

1. George II. was born in Germany. On the death of Queen Anne, he accompanied his father to England. He was then thirty-one years of age, and consequently was forty-four years old when he succeeded to the throne. *Like his father, he loved Hanover better*

than England, and this led at times to foreign entanglements injurious to British interests.

2. The new king could speak English fluently, though with a foreign accent, and had thus a great advantage over his predecessor in being able to converse freely with his ministers. In personal appearance he was insignificant, being small in stature, and of anything but a kingly aspect. He was, however, possessed of courage, as had been shown on the field of Oudenarde, and as was afterwards even more conspicuously displayed at the battle of Dettingen. Indeed, he had such a fondness for soldiering, that the Jacobites nicknamed him the 'Little Captain.'

3. As Prince of Wales, George II. had not shown much filial respect for his father. He was destined to have his paternal feelings wrung in the same manner. His eldest son Frederick became the head of the opposition party in the state, and his palace was the resort of all those persons who were not in favour at court, and who therefore endeavoured to ingratiate themselves with the Prince, who would one day, as they supposed, be king, and able to reward them for their devotion. Their hopes were never realised; for to the great grief of the nation, Prince Frederick died suddenly in the year 1751.

4. George II. was very avaricious. It is said he had a frequent trick of counting the money in his purse, and this seemed to afford him the most lively satisfaction. He had the merit, however, of attending carefully to the details of business; nor did he interfere needlessly in the government of the *country*, but seemed perfectly content if he was left

to the counting of his coins, the society of his German friends, and his trips to Hanover.

5. He was fortunate in possessing a good and noble woman for his wife. This was Caroline of Anspach. She was a woman of much prudence and good sense, and as long as she lived, exerted a great influence for good upon her kingly spouse. She possessed a taste



Scene at the Court of George II.

for literature, and was a staunch patron of men of letters. Although she lived at a corrupt time, and in a corrupt court, Queen Caroline's character was without a stain, and she did all she could to introduce a more elevated tone into the court. This worthy lady died *prematurely in the year 1737.*



6. The reign of George II. is marked by many striking events. The early part of it was of a very peaceful character, under the guidance of Sir Robert Walpole; but, as we have seen, this minister was compelled at last, much against his will, to declare war against Spain. Soon afterwards, its connection with Hanover dragged the country into the *War of the Austrian Succession*. The king himself was present during one campaign, and showed much coolness and courage at the battle of **Dettingen**, where the French were defeated. This was the last time a monarch of England has taken the field in person. Two years afterwards, England was startled by the romantic attempt of the Young Pretender to recover the English throne, while all Europe looked on in wonder. A few years later, a struggle for supremacy between the English and the French commenced in both hemispheres. Under the able guidance of the great William Pitt, the British arms were victorious everywhere. In the East, the daring genius of Clive was laying the foundation of our magnificent Indian Empire; while, in America, the conquest of Canada was achieved by the intrepid Wolfe at the battle of Quebec. At sea, our fleets, under Boscawen, Hawke, and others, ruled supreme. Thus the arms of England were victorious in both hemispheres.

7. In the midst of this career of victory, the king was seized with a fit, and died suddenly on the 25th of October 1760, in the seventy-seventh year of his age. He was succeeded by his grandson George, the son of Frederick, Prince of Wales, who, as has *already been noted*, died in 1751.

The **War of the Austrian Succession** (1740-1748) arose out of a dispute who should succeed to the dominions of Austria. While France and Prussia attacked Austria, England assisted her. The greatest battle of the war was that of Fontenoy, in Flanders, where, after showing the greatest bravery, the English and Hanoverians, under the Duke of Cumberland, were defeated by the French (1745). The war closed with the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, leaving things very much as they had been.

**Dettingen** on the Main, in South Germany. The army of George II. was composed of English and Germans.

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### LESSON XIII.

#### **War with Spain—Anson's Voyage round the World, 1740—1744 A.D.**

1. As we have already seen, war was declared against Spain in the year 1739, amid the most extravagant rejoicings of the nation. At the outset, an expedition was got ready to attack the Spanish possessions in Central America, and the command of it was given to Admiral Vernon, who was very popular with the people, both on account of his nautical bluntness of character, and also because of his attacks in parliament upon the peace-loving Walpole.

2. Vernon took from the Spaniards the small town of Porto Bello, on the Isthmus of Darien; and this feat was regarded by the nation as one of the most splendid achievements on record. After this, an attempt was made to capture the town of Carthagena by a combined sea and land force, the latter commanded by Lord Wentworth. The attack failed, however, chiefly owing to disagreements between the two leaders, and the British force suffered

severely. This disaster to our arms caused great discontent at home, and the public vented their displeasure upon Walpole, whose downfall it served to hasten.

3. One incident of this war is worthy of being more fully recorded, as, although it is connected with no permanent conquest, yet it presents us with an example of steady courage and perseverance under difficulties which merits our admiration far more than acts of boisterous daring. This was Captain Anson's voyage round the world. Early in the war, it was resolved to fit out a small fleet of six vessels, for the purpose of annoying the enemy in the Pacific, and of co-operating with Admiral Vernon across the Isthmus of Darien. Owing to the delay in getting ready the expedition, it failed in the main object for which it was intended, as, by the time it was ready to set sail, the Spaniards had become aware of its destination, and had taken measures to prevent its success.

4. At length, on the 18th of September 1740, Anson set sail for the South Seas. All went well till Cape Horn was reached; but in doubling this cape, the little squadron met with the most tempestuous weather, and such was the inclemency of the season, that the crews were reduced to great extremities. Two of the vessels could not get round the cape at all. Scurvy also disabled many of the best seamen; and when at last the Pacific was reached, Anson was so far from being able to engage in any vigorous enterprise, that he was obliged to put in at *the island* of Juan Fernandez to refit, and give his

crews some rest. These desirable objects being accomplished, he sailed for the western coast of South America, where he harassed the Spaniards incessantly, hovering about their coasts for nearly a year, capturing their merchant-ships, and destroying the rich town of Paita, which he plundered of all its treasure. But though Anson did all the harm he could to the Spaniards by destroying their vessels, he always conducted himself with much gallantry and generosity towards the prisoners who fell into his hands, and especially towards the women. He thus did much to raise the character of Englishmen in the estimation of the Spaniards, many of whom believed that chivalrous conduct existed nowhere but in Spain.

5. Anson had been disappointed of the principal object of his search, the great Spanish galleon which he knew sailed every year, laden with treasure, between Acapulco and Manilla. So he sailed across the Pacific, and with only one ship remaining, arrived at the uninhabited island of Tinian, one of the Ladrões. This was an agreeable change for his weary men, as the island possessed a most healthy climate, and its soil yielded the choicest productions in great abundance. Here for a time they remained, setting up their tents on shore, and leaving only a small number of men in the vessel to take charge of her. One night, however, a violent storm arose, and next morning, when the men on shore cast their eyes seawards, what was their dismay to find that the ship had been driven out to sea by the tempest, and was nowhere to be seen.

6. Anson and nearly all his officers and men were

left on the island, with no other means of escaping from it than a small Spanish vessel of fifteen tons, which they had seized. Without losing heart they proceeded to enlarge this little craft, and had already fixed a day to resume their voyage in it, when, to their intense joy and astonishment, they once more beheld their dear old vessel, the *Centurion*, approaching the island, the few men on board having managed, after suffering great distress and hardship, to navigate her back to the island.

7. In October 1742, Anson set sail once more, and proceeded to Canton in China, to repair his vessel and obtain supplies. While there, he maintained the honour of the British flag by refusing to pay to the Chinese authorities the unjust and extortionate dues which they had been in the habit of levying upon merchantmen. As soon as the *Centurion* was ready for sea, he sailed again into the Pacific, to lie in wait for the large Spanish galleon which sailed from Acapulco to Manilla. His project succeeded to the full extent of his wishes. After waiting for some time near the Philippine Islands, he fell in with the galleon, which was laden with treasure worth a million and a half of dollars. She was a large, stout vessel, and well manned; but she was no match for Anson's well-drilled crew; and after a sharp engagement, she surrendered.

8. Having captured this valuable prize, Anson turned his vessel's head homewards by the Cape of Good Hope route. The voyage was safely accomplished, and the *Centurion* cast anchor at Spithead in June 1744, after an absence of nearly four years.

Anson was received by his countrymen with that admiration and enthusiasm which is always excited by brave deeds achieved in the face of great difficulties. He was raised to high honours, and the treasure which he had taken from the Spaniards was conveyed to the Bank of England amid the joyous shouts of the populace.

The **Ladrones** are a group of islands in the Pacific, east of the Philippine Islands. They still belong to Spain.

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## LESSON XIV.

### Lines on the Loss of a Ship.

Her mighty sails the breezes swell,  
And fast she leaves the lessening land,  
And from the shore the last farewell  
Is waved by many a snowy hand ;  
And weeping eyes are on the main,  
Until its verge she wanders o'er ;  
But from the hour of parting pain,  
That bark was never heard of more !

In her was many a mother's joy,  
And love of many a weeping fair ;  
For her was wafted, in its sigh,  
The lonely heart's unceasing prayer ;  
And, oh ! the thousand hopes untold  
Of ardent youth, that vessel bore ;  
Say, were they quenched in waters cold ?  
For she was never heard of more !

When on her wide and trackless path  
Of desolation, doomed to flee,  
Say, sank she 'midst the blending wrath  
Of racking cloud and rolling sea ?  
Or, where the land but mocks the eye,  
Went drifting on a fatal shore ?  
Vain guesses all—her destiny  
Is dark—she ne'er was heard of more !

The moon hath twelve times changed her form,  
From glowing orb to crescent wan ;  
'Mid skies of calm, and scowl of storm,  
Since from her port that ship hath gone ;  
But ocean keeps its secret well,  
And though we know that all is o'er,  
No eye hath seen, no tongue can tell  
Her fate—she ne'er was heard of more !

Oh ! were her tale of sorrow known,  
'Twas something to the broken heart,  
The pangs of doubt would then be gone,  
And fancy's endless dreams depart :  
It may not be ! there is no ray  
By which her doom we may explore ;  
We only know she sailed away,  
And ne'er was seen nor heard of more.

*John Malcolm.*



## LESSON XV.

**The Insurrection of 1745.**

1. England being engaged in the War of the Austrian Succession, and the country consequently almost denuded of troops, the friends of the exiled Stuarts thought the time auspicious for making another attempt to gain the lost throne. The Old Pretender, or the Chevalier, as he was frequently called, was still alive, and kept up a mock court in France as James III., king of the British Isles. Being too aged to head the insurrection himself, his son, Prince Charles Edward, animated by the hopeful spirit of youth, and looking only at the romantic side of the enterprise, determined to test once more the feeling of the nation for his family by an appeal to arms.

2. He accordingly set sail for Scotland, attended by only seven officers ; and landing on a lonely spot on the north-west coast, was soon joined by several Highland chiefs and their clansmen. Some of the more prudent tried to dissuade Charles from the rash attempt ; but he was deaf to all entreaties of this kind, and shortly afterwards the standard of the Stuarts was unfurled in a wild glen in the Highlands, in the presence of several hundred clansmen and their chiefs, and a small sprinkling of Lowland gentlemen.

3. Charles then commenced his march southwards, his little army increasing in numbers daily. Sir John Cope, *the commander of the royal forces, instead*



of barring the passes into the Lowlands, moved his army to Inverness, and thus the road to Edinburgh lay open. The Prince, availing himself of Cope's



Prince Charles at the head of his Army.

mistake, pushed rapidly on, and in a very short time took possession of Edinburgh, the castle only remaining in the hands of the government. Charles at once took up his abode in Holyrood, the palace of *his ancestors*.

4. As soon as Cope saw that the foe had given him the slip, he embarked his troops at Aberdeen, and set sail for Edinburgh; but finding that the city was already occupied by the rebels, he landed his army at Dunbar, and commenced his march towards the Scottish capital. When Charles heard of his approach, he moved out to meet him, and a battle took place at **Prestonpans**, a village a few miles to the eastward of the capital. The impetuous onset of the Highlanders, whose practice it was to discharge their pieces, and then rush to close quarters with their claymores, completely disconcerted Cope's army, which in a few minutes was completely routed, a large quantity of stores falling into the hands of the victors.

5. The spirits of the Prince and his friends were greatly elated by this success. After spending some weeks in Edinburgh, during which many gay assemblages were held in the palace of Holyrood, Charles determined to march into England, where he fondly hoped the English squires and yeomanry would rally round him. Accordingly, he crossed the Border with an army of about six thousand men, and took possession of Carlisle. His reception in England, however, was very different from what he had expected. The farther he penetrated southwards, the less cordial were the people towards him. Indeed, the Highlanders, with their strange dress and aspect, were regarded by the English almost as so many savages. There was some Jacobite feeling in Lancashire, and Manchester furnished a regiment of two hundred men under Colonel Townley. Still, the result was terribly *disappointing* to Charles.

6. From Manchester the rebels continued their adventurous march as far as Derby, when, to the great mortification of Charles, the council of chiefs resolved to go no farther, but to make good their retreat into Scotland. It was indeed high time for them to retire, if they did not wish to be entirely surrounded. The Duke of Cumberland, the king's second son, was at Lichfield with an army of ten thousand men, who had been hurried over from the continent with all speed; another force was moving westward from Newcastle to cut off their retreat; while the king himself, with the train-bands and militia, was stationed so as to protect London.

7. The poor Highlanders, who thought that the Prince was about 'to enjoy his own again,' and that the wealth of the metropolis was at their mercy, were as much dejected as Charles himself when they commenced the backward movement. They retraced their steps in a sullen mood, their rear harassed at times by the advanced parties of their pursuers. Near Penrith they showed a touch of their old spirit by turning fiercely upon a party of Cumberland's dragoons who were hanging upon their rear, and inflicting considerable loss upon them. During the remainder of their march they were unmolested.

8. On their arrival in Scotland, they were cheered for a little while by a victory at **Falkirk**, where they scattered the force of General Hawley by one of their impetuous rushes. The bitter end was, however, not to be averted by such transient gleams of success. The Duke of Cumberland was *pressing* up behind them with an overwhelming

force. The Highlanders retired before him to Inverness, where Charles held his court for a time. His army was ill prepared for the decisive encounter. It was destitute of the necessities of life, and many of the chieftains were on bad terms with one another. Under these circumstances, Charles's best policy would have been either to have attacked the approaching host at the passage of the Spey, or to have taken up a position among the mountains, where he could at least have protracted the struggle. He did neither; and in the end, his army was compelled, while hungry and exhausted, to meet the royal forces on the broad open moor **1746 A.D.** of **Culloden**, where they were mowed down by the fire of the artillery.

One wing of the Highlanders did, indeed, make a dashing onset upon the front rank opposed to them, and succeeded in breaking through it. But the Duke had prepared for this. The second line stood firm, and poured in a deadly volley. Then the end was come. The Highlanders broke into flight, and were pursued and cut down by the victors without mercy.



British Infantry in 1745.

9. Prince Charles made his escape from the fatal

field; and an immense reward was offered for his capture; but no one was found base enough to betray him. For five months he led a wandering life among the Grampians and the western islands, during which he had many hairbreadth escapes, and underwent terrible hardships. At length he succeeded in getting safely on board a small vessel, which conveyed him to the shores of France, where he landed, a soured and disappointed man. During the latter years of his life, he fell into habits of intemperance, and died at Rome in 1788.

10. Besides those who were slain on the field of Culloden by the command of Cumberland, about eighty more persons suffered death on the scaffold for their devotion to the Jacobite cause, among whom were the Lords Kilmarnock, Balmerino, and Lovat. Although the insurrection proved so disastrous to the Highlanders at the time, yet in the end it was productive of good. It caused the English people to take more interest in the wild Celtic race who inhabited the north of Scotland, and to devise measures for breaking up the power of the chieftains, who had so often led their poor deluded followers to death upon the battle-field.

**Holyrood** ; the ancient palace of the Scottish kings at Edinburgh.



## LESSON XVI.

**General Wolfe, the Hero of Quebec, 1759 A.D.**

1. The first successful English colonies in America had been established during the reign of James I. Since that time several states had been founded by British emigrants, who had either sailed westward to better their fortunes, or like the 'Pilgrim Fathers,' had gone in search of some place where they could obtain 'freedom to worship God.' Thus, in the reign of George II., British settlements were found along the whole Atlantic seaboard, from Massachusetts to Florida. Our neighbours, the French, had not been idle during this period. They had founded Canada or New France; and were in possession of all the territory along the St Lawrence, and the chain of lakes which it drains. They laid claim also to the valley of the Mississippi, asserting that they had been the first to discover the mouth of that river. A line of forts had been built by them, stretching from the great lakes, along the banks of the Ohio to the valley of the Mississippi; and they thus showed an intention to confine the British to the territory lying eastward of the Alleghany chain of mountains.

2. Towards the end of George II.'s reign, several expeditions had been sent to try to effect the reduction of the French forts. At first the British arms met with disaster. But in the year 1756, William Pitt became the leading spirit in the British

cabinet; and under his vigorous sway, things in America soon began to wear a very different aspect. Fort after fort fell into the hands of the English. One of these forts, Du Quesne, afterwards received the name of Pittsburg in honour of the great minister. A last great effort was now needed to achieve the conquest of Canada, the key to which was the strong fortress of Quebec. For the daring task of besieging Quebec, Pitt chose a promising young officer named Wolfe.

3. Wolfe had been early trained to arms. He had acquired some distinction in the battles on the Continent during the war of the Austrian Succession, and had in consequence been promoted to the command of a regiment. When war broke out in North America, his previous reputation marked him out for employment. He was raised to the rank of Brigadier-general, and sent under Amherst to assist in reducing the strong fortress of Louisberg. The capture of the fortress was in no slight degree due to his courage and judgment.

4. The reduction of Quebec, with which Wolfe was now intrusted, afforded full scope for the exertion of all his talents, as he had to encounter difficulties of every sort, arising from nature or devised by art. The town of Quebec was built on rocks and heights which were deemed inaccessible. It was strongly fortified by the French, and was held by a garrison of excellent troops, under the able command of General Montcalm, a soldier as conspicuous for bravery as Wolfe himself. On beholding the formidable defences of the place, Wolfe's own officers were

almost ready to despair of success. But their commander was determined to succeed; and that, not with the rashness which aims at impossibilities, but with the coolness and courage which devise suitable means, and the perseverance and energy which can carry them to a favourable issue. He first bombarded the place, and reduced the lower town to ashes; and then led his men against a fort occupying a commanding position. This attempt failed, however, and he was driven to try fresh expedients.

5. A daring scheme for reaching the heights on which the citadel was placed, now suggested itself to Wolfe's bold and original mind. The plan was to get behind the town, and scale the heights at a point which the enemy had left almost undefended, considering it to be inaccessible. At midnight, the British troops dropped silently down the river in boats, till they reached the little cove—ever since called Wolfe's Cove—which had been selected for a landing-place. Springing quickly ashore, the Highlanders and light infantry, creeping up singly, and holding on by crags and bushes, succeeded in reaching the level ground above, after dislodging a small picket of the enemy, which was posted at the top of the ascent. Those who first got up formed on the plateau to protect their comrades; and by nine o'clock the next morning, Wolfe and his gallant little army stood ranged there in order of battle.

6. As soon as Montcalm perceived the advantage which the British had obtained, he at once resolved either to drive them from their position, or to perish



in the attempt. The French advanced in admirable order, and with great courage, and made a furious charge upon the British lines. Wolfe's troops, acting upon his instructions, coolly reserved their fire till the enemy was close upon them. They then poured in a deadly volley, and the fight became general.



Death of Wolfe (from West's picture).

Very early in the action, Wolfe was wounded in the wrist by a musket-ball. He merely wrapped a handkerchief around it, and remained at the head of his men, cheering them on. The enemy's ranks soon began to waver before the withering fire of the British. This was the critical point of the day.

Wolfe at once ordered his whole line to advance, and charge with the bayonet. The order was received with ringing cheers, and his men dashed upon the foe with irresistible force. But just as the charge was in progress, Wolfe received another ball in his breast, and fell to the ground. He was borne to the rear by a soldier. As he lay reclining in the arms of the grenadier, his life-blood ebbing fast away, a cry arose: 'They run, they run!' A momentary fire kindled in the glazing eye of the dying hero. 'Who run?' inquired he. 'The enemy,' was the reply. 'Then,' said he, a smile of satisfaction lighting for an instant his pale countenance, 'I die contented;' and turning on his side, he expired, as it were, in the arms of victory.

7. The brave Montcalm was also killed in the action; and the consequences of the victory were the speedy surrender of the town, and eventually the conquest of the whole of Canada, which is still one of the great English colonies. The body of Wolfe was embalmed and brought to England. He was buried in Westminster Abbey, where a splendid monument was erected to his memory.

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## LESSON XVII.

### Lord Clive.

(BORN 1725; DIED 1774.)

1. We have seen that the struggle for supremacy in North America, between the British and the French, ended in victory for the former. About the

same time, another contest was going on in the East between the same rivals, the issue of which was to decide the future of India. The man to whom England was indebted for vindicating her renown in that quarter of the globe was Robert Clive, the founder of the British empire in India.

2. Robert Clive was the son of a Shropshire gentleman, of rather reduced circumstances. In his early years, the boy gave no particular promise of future greatness, except, perhaps, that in his youthful escapades he showed that he possessed a bold and untamable spirit. At the age of eighteen, an appointment having been obtained for him in the East India Company's service, he was shipped off to Madras, to take his place at a clerk's desk. In this occupation he remained for two or three years; but the work was of a very uncongenial kind. Events now took place, however, which completely changed the direction of his career, and afforded ample scope for the display of those remarkable military talents with which he had been gifted by nature.

3. The governor of the neighbouring French settlement of Pondicherry was Dupleix, a man of a scheming and ambitious mind. The great Mogul empire was rapidly falling into decay, and Dupleix had formed the gigantic design of founding a French empire upon its ruins. By making alliances with native princes, and using them as his tools for carrying out his aggressive schemes, he gradually acquired an immense power in Southern India, and British influence, in consequence, was reduced to *the lowest ebb*.

4. At this critical juncture, Clive, who had recently become an ensign in the Company's service, suggested to the authorities at Madras, that if they wished to retain their footing on the Coromandel coast, active steps should be at once taken to counteract the successes of the French. Accordingly, it was resolved to make a dash at **Arcot**, the capital of the Carnatic, while the French and their allies were absent on another expedition; and Clive himself was intrusted with the carrying out of the enterprise. Attended by only two hundred British troops, and three hundred sepoys, he marched rapidly upon Arcot, completely surprising the defenders, who fled almost without striking a blow.

5. Clive knew very well, however, that he would not long be allowed to retain quiet possession of the place; and he at once set about making preparations for its defence. Before many days were over, the little garrison was besieged by a numerous force of natives, assisted by a body of French troops. Although the citadel was in a ruinous condition, and the garrison was suffering from a scarcity of provisions, Clive and his little band held the place for fifty days, gallantly repulsing every attack, till at last the enemy, disheartened by repeated failures, broke up their camp in the middle of the night and marched away. When the news of this memorable defence reached Madras, reinforcements were sent to Clive, who at once sallied forth in search of the enemy. He was victorious in every encounter, and in a very short space of time the power of the French was completely broken. **Dupleix** was

recalled to France, where he died of disappointed hopes ; and from this time the power of England began steadily to increase, and that of France to decline.

6. Shortly after these events, Clive returned to England for the re-establishment of his health. In



Portrait of Clive.

a surprisingly short time he had displayed military talents which showed him to be, as Pitt said, 'a heaven-born general,' and entitled him to rank with the greatest commanders of the age. He was most cordially received both by the public and by his own family, who had not expected such great things

from their 'naughty Bobby.' He had acquired a moderate fortune in prize-money, with which he redeemed the family estate, and placed his relations in comfortable circumstances. After a stay of about two years in England, he once more accepted service under the East India Company, and was appointed to the governorship of Fort St David, and a commission as lieutenant-colonel in the British army.

7. Again embarking for India in the year 1755, Clive had not been long at his new post, when intelligence was received at Fort St David, which stirred the hearts of all Englishmen to their depths, and aroused a desire for vengeance. Surajah Dowlah, who had recently succeeded to the Nabobship of Bengal, and who had all his life been distinguished for his intense hatred of the English, had descended suddenly upon the Company's settlement at Calcutta with a large army. Resistance was out of the question, and the fort was surrendered on a promise that the lives of the defenders should be spared. But what was the value of a promise to the treacherous Nabob! He did not, indeed, actually put his prisoners to death at once. That would have been a merciful fate in comparison with what did befall them. To the number of one hundred and forty-six, they were thrust into a cell, only some twenty feet square, which, in that burning climate, did not admit sufficient air even for one person. The horrors of that terrible 1756 A.D. night cannot be described. When morning dawned, and the door was at length thrown open by the guards, only twenty-three miserable wretches were

able to stagger forth. All the rest were dead. Such was the terrible tragedy enacted in the **Black Hole** of Calcutta.

8. Retribution, however, swiftly followed. Before long, Clive appeared in the Hooghly with an army; and Surajah Dowlah's coward heart trembled when



he heard that the terrible defender of Arcot had arrived. He promised compensation, and made all kinds of fine promises to the British authorities. This went on for some time, till it was discovered that the false Nabob was intriguing with the French at

Chandernagore, with a view to expelling the English altogether from the country. No faith could be kept with a man like this; and eventually it was resolved to depose him, and set up another prince in his stead.

9. With this object, Clive marched towards Moorshedabad, the capital. His army consisted of only three thousand men, of whom not more than one thousand were Europeans; while Surajah Dowlah's force was nearly twenty times as numerous.

1757 A.D. The two armies spent the night opposite each other, near the village of **Plassey**. When morning dawned, the battle commenced on both sides by a

fire of artillery, in which every shot from the British did great execution in the crowded ranks of their opponents. Very soon the Indian host began to waver and fall into confusion. Observing this, Clive ordered his whole line to advance; and in a very short space of time, the mighty host of Surajah Dowlah was routed on all sides, he himself a fugitive; and his whole camp, with baggage and treasure, was in possession of the victors, who thus, at one blow, became masters of the large and fertile province of Bengal.

10. Shortly afterwards, Clive returned to England, when honours and rewards were heaped upon him. After spending a few years at home, during which he entered parliament, he once more sailed to India as Governor of Bengal. During his absence in England, the Company's officers, eager to amass wealth, had treated the native population with gross injustice, and brought a stain upon British honour. Clive set himself to remedy matters with his usual vigour and determination; and during his governorship, which lasted about a year and a half, he was successful in rooting out the abuses which had crept into both the civil and military administration. Having performed this useful service, he bade a final farewell to India in the year 1767.

11. When the glamour of his successes had worn off, his enemies at home began to magnify his faults. They accused him of having acquired wealth in unworthy ways, by taking presents from the Indian princes. The subject was even brought before Parliament, where Clive defended his conduct with



much spirit and acumen. The taunts of his foes seem, however, to have preyed upon his mind, for not long afterwards he died by his own hand, in the forty-ninth year of his age.

**The Mogul Empire** was a great empire, founded in India by a great warrior of Mogul or Mongolian race.

**The Carnatic** is a province in Southern India.

**Fort St David** was at Madras.

**Chandernagore** was a French settlement on the Hooghly, not far from Calcutta.

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## . LESSON XVIII.

### **Progress of the Nation from 1688 to 1760.**

1. The Revolution of 1688 did away with the old disputes between king and people. The new monarchs—whether it were the Dutch William, or the German Georges—showed no wish to follow the example of the Stuarts. By the will of the people, they were placed upon the throne; and in accordance with the wishes of the people, they strove in the main to rule. Thus parliament became supreme; and the old struggle being over, the nation began to settle down, and to cultivate the arts of peace.

2. Unfortunately, while our new kings gave us constitutional government, they were also the cause of our engaging in all the great continental wars of the period; and, although our generals and soldiers frequently earned much distinction in those wars, and raised the name and fame of their country, yet an immense debt was incurred, which from that time has gone on steadily increasing, and at the present *day rests as a huge burden upon the shoulders of the*

nation. At the commencement of William III.'s reign, the debt was only about a million and a half; at the death of George II., it had risen to the enormous amount of one hundred and forty millions.

3. In spite of the drain upon our resources caused by our continental wars, the country made steady progress in commerce and manufactures during this period. Our American colonies were growing rapidly, and carried on a considerable trade with the mother-country; and the feeling of security due to the supremacy of our navy stimulated commercial enterprise in every sea.

4. Our manufactures also made a steady improvement. Wool continued to be the staple, and in the West Riding of Yorkshire, and elsewhere, developed considerably. The Leeds Old Cloth Hall was built in 1758. In 1719, silk-mills were erected at Derby by Lombe and others; and the fabrics which they produced soon rivalled, if they did not excel, those of Italy, from which country our chief supplies had formerly been obtained. An impetus was given also at this time to the linen trade both of Ireland and Scotland. The iron manufacture, too, was rapidly rising in importance. In the year 1750, the works at Rotherham were established; and ten years later, the famous Carron works in Scotland were begun. This industrial growth, however, gave promise of far greater things that were soon to follow. At the very time that George II. passed away, Brindley was engaged in the first of his great canals; and only three years after George died, Watt began his experiments on the *power of steam*,

5. Many towns had increased greatly, the most noteworthy being London, Liverpool, Bristol, Birmingham, Leeds, Hull, Sheffield, &c. ; and, although, generally speaking, they were ill-built, and lacked the handsome structures which distinguish them at the present day, yet even then, the metropolis was commencing to set an example in the domain of architecture, which has since been worthily followed by other places. St Paul's Cathedral reared its majestic dome, a splendid and lasting monument to the genius of Sir Christopher Wren; Vanbrugh raised the massive and stately pile of Blenheim Palace for the Duke of Marlborough; Chelsea water-works were erected in 1721; and Westminster Bridge was completed in 1750.

6. Parliament passed many useful measures during this period. The most noteworthy were the acts for the better conduct of business in courts of justice. The chief boon in this respect was ordering that all legal documents should be in English, and not in Latin, as they had been previously. In the year 1752, the New Style of reckoning time was adopted. In the course of centuries, the time of the nation had got behind; and to set it right, eleven days were struck out of the month of September of that year. Some countries still retain the Old Style of reckoning.

7. The literature of the period is more distinguished for wit and smartness, than for depth or nobleness. In this respect it was suitable to the age, which was marked by frivolous tastes and pursuits. The *best-known* names in prose are Defoe, Addison,

Steele, and Swift. The youth of England are still charmed by the *Robinson Crusoe* of Defoe; and Addison's pure and elegant style has seldom been equalled. His beautiful papers in the *Spectator* still exist as models of graceful English. In poetry, the name of Pope is most famous; and along with him are Thomson, Gray, and Allan Ramsay. In painting, Hogarth is by far the best known. He was a great satirical artist, such works as the 'Rake's Progress' being produced in ridicule of the fashionable vices of the time.

8. It is to this period that we owe the origin of the Wesleyan Methodists, a body which has exercised an



Whitefield preaching.

immense influence for good upon the masses of the people. The nation had sunk into a condition of

indifference in religious matters. This lamentable state of things roused the spirit of the brothers John and Charles Wesley, and their friend Whitefield, all three of whom, while scholars at Oxford, were distinguished for the strictness of their opinions, and their upright course of conduct. These earnest men devoted their lives to rousing their countrymen from their religious torpor. It was not their intention to separate themselves from the established church; but many of the clergy, offended by their peculiarities, closed the pulpits against the young enthusiasts, who then took to addressing out-door audiences of the common people, travelling about from place to place to do so. By this means a religious spirit was carried into remote districts, and among classes of people where before it had been almost unknown. In 1740, the first Methodist society was formed in London. The number of members increased rapidly, and on the death of John Wesley, in 1791, Wesleyanism had struck its roots everywhere, and had become a mighty spiritualising power.

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## LESSON XIX.

### **Condition of the People.**

1. As we have seen in the previous lesson, this period was notorious for a low state of morality among all classes. Of this there are unmistakable indications in the writings of Fielding and others. *From the court downwards*, the people were given

up to frivolous pursuits and pleasures, which, in the metropolis at least, took the form of balls, routs, and operas, besides assembly-rooms at Vauxhall, and other places of entertainment in the suburbs, where public dancing was carried on. When the London season was over, the upper classes retired for change to Bath, Tunbridge Wells, Epsom Wells, and other fashionable watering-places. Tours on the Continent, or in the Highlands, were not thought of in those days.

2. The great vice of the age was gambling. Everybody gambled, from the king and his ministers downwards, and frequently for very large stakes. Ladies also took part in this degrading custom. No wonder, when so bad an example was set them by their superiors, that we find the labouring classes sunk in vice and ignorance. Gin-drinking was carried to excess among them; and, as might be expected, there was much pauperism. Learning was not so highly valued as in these days. Even in the higher grades of society, the great majority of persons were imperfectly educated; and among the lower orders, the greatest ignorance prevailed.

3. The houses of the well-to-do were profusely and luxuriously furnished. Mahogany had recently been introduced into England for the making of furniture, and it speedily became the most fashionable material for the purpose. Carpets, woven chiefly at Kidderminster, were in general use at the end of George II.'s reign among all persons who had any claim to respectability.

4. With *respect to* costume, there were many

peculiarities. The gentlemen wore square-cut coats, with long-flapped waistcoats reaching almost to the knee. These garments were made of the most luxurious materials, being generally silk or velvet, and decked off, with long hanging cuffs and lace ruffles. The costume was completed by knee-breeches, gaudy-coloured silk stockings, and high-heeled shoes with



Costumes in 1745.

buckles, studded in some cases with jewels. On the head, it was the fashion to wear large, white, powdered wigs, which were surmounted with three-cornered cocked hats. Dangling by the side was the sword which was worn by all gentlemen, and was often used in fighting duels, a common way of settling disputes in those times. In the reigns of the *first two Georges*, the wigs received an appendage in

the shape of a tail. Both sexes used powder for the hair.

5. During the reign of William the ladies wore a towering head-dress, with which they sometimes looked as if they were seven feet high. In the course of Anne's reign, female head-gear assumed more respectable dimensions; but the passion for superabundance next exhibited itself in the skirts of the dresses, which were so distended by enormous hoops or crinolines, as to make the ladies, when promenading in the parks, appear like so many walking balloons.

6. After the abolition of the censorship of the press in 1695, newspapers greatly increased, but the information they supplied was very meagre. Hence gentlemen still resorted to the coffee-house for the purpose of hearing and retailing the news of the day; and, as may be supposed, it lost nothing in the telling. The Whigs and Tories, as we have seen, were bitterly hostile; and they used to ridicule each other's foibles by political pamphlets or lampoons, written by smart and witty authors, who, unfortunately, were only too glad, in those hard times for literary men, to eke out a livelihood by using their pens in that way. So bitter was the feeling between the two parties, that when they went to a theatre or opera-house, they ranged themselves on opposite sides, in much the same manner as the ministerial party and the opposition in the House of Commons at the present day.

7. Wheeled carriages were rare, the favourite vehicle for conveyance being the sedan chair, in which the occupant was borne by lusty serving-men,



or by porters hired for the occasion. The streets were in a very unsafe condition, being for the most part unpaved, and only lighted here and there by the feeble glimmer of a few oil lamps. The causeway for foot-passengers was only separated from the carriage-way by a row of stakes. It was a difficult and even dangerous task to traverse the



Scene before St James's Palace (time of Queen Anne).

streets after dark. In the case of sedan chairs and coaches, the drawbacks were obviated to some extent by the employment of boys, called link-boys, as runners, who ran on before, holding lighted torches in their hands to show the way. Passengers were also very liable to molestation and robbery by gangs of prowling ruffians, and it was not safe for a person of respectability to sally forth at night without a strong escort.



**GEORGE III., 1760—1820 A.D.**

(EARLY PERIOD, 1760—1789 A.D.)

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**LESSON XX.****Beginning of George III.'s Reign.**

1. The first two Georges were Germans, not only by birth, but by education, habits, and feelings. They never succeeded in evoking any strong personal attachment, or in making themselves popular with their subjects. The accession of George III., who came to the throne at the early age of twenty-two, produced a great change in this respect. He was born and brought up in this country; he had the feelings of an Englishman, and desired to rule like an English king. 'Born and educated in this country,' he said in his first address to parliament, 'I glory in the name of Briton.' All classes of men, therefore, rallied cordially to his side; and even the great Tory party, which had so long been hostile to the House of Hanover, prepared to transfer their old loyalty to the new king.

2. In his private character, George III. was upright and amiable. As man, husband, and father, he was eminent for his virtues. His tastes were simple and homely; when in residence at Windsor, he was frequently to be seen walking about in the ordinary garb of a country gentleman; and the well-known figure of 'farmer George' was as familiar to

the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, as that of the 'squire' or 'parson.' He was a great friend to the instruction of the poor, often expressing a wish that every one of his subjects might be able to read the Bible. His queen, Charlotte of Mecklenburg, was a most excellent wife; and they both set their faces sternly against many of the vices which had been fashionable at the court of his two predecessors.

3. On the other hand, it must be said that he had received a very narrow and imperfect education. He also placed too much confidence in the Earl of Bute, a Scotch nobleman, whose advice soon brought him into opposition to the wishes and interests of the people. This was first clearly shown in the course of the war with France, which was still triumphantly continued. Suspecting that an alliance had been formed between France and Spain, Pitt urged an immediate declaration of war against the latter country; but his advice was disregarded, and he resigned. On his resignation, the Londoners showed their esteem of the 'Great Commoner' in the most enthusiastic way—hanging round his carriage, hugging his footmen, and even kissing his horses. It was soon discovered, too, that he was right in regard to Spain; for shortly afterwards, war did take place between England and that country, and his plans for conducting it were victoriously carried out by his successors in office. Most of the French West Indies were subdued; Havana and Manilla were immediately taken from Spain.

4. *In the midst of successes like these, the Earl of*

Bute, who was now chief minister, resolved to terminate the war. He broke off the alliance with Frederick of Prussia, and, greatly to the disgust of the nation, hastened to make peace without securing the due fruits of victory. Still, the French and



Popularity of Pitt.

Spaniards were so exhausted that they were easily brought to agree to terms very favourable to England. The French ceded Canada and all the adjoining country, while the Spaniards restored Minorca and gave up Florida. Thus the war had three results of the very greatest importance—the English, or more properly the Anglo-Saxon race, became masters of North America; the English

empire in India was firmly established; we were undisputed rulers of the sea.

5. From the beginning of his reign, George III. showed his determination to assert the personal power of the king, which had been so little felt under his predecessors. The first two Georges were more interested in their little dominion of Hanover than in this country, and left the management of affairs to the leaders of the Whig party. George III., however, resolved to destroy the power of the Whigs, and become king in reality. Unfortunately, in carrying out this purpose, his chief method was the one followed by Walpole, the system, namely, of bribing the members of the House of Commons with money, and the offer of lucrative posts under government. In this he was only too successful; and, as we shall see, the results were disastrous to the country.

6. At this period even the House of Commons was sometimes at variance with the feelings of the nation. Few of the people had a vote at elections, and seats in parliament were regularly bought and sold. Under these circumstances it was possible for the House of Commons to set at defiance the wishes of those whom they professed to represent.

**Tory Party.** After the battle of Culloden, the hope of seeing the Stuart Line restored quite disappeared. Hence it was that many of the Tories now became the most loyal friends of George III. on his accession to the throne.



## LESSON XXI.

**William Pitt, Earl of Chatham.**

BORN 1708; DIED 1778.

1. Of all the eminent statesmen who served England during the eighteenth century, none deserves a higher place in our estimation than William Pitt, the 'Great Commoner,' afterwards Earl of Chatham.

2. William Pitt came of a respectable family that had long been settled in Dorsetshire. He received his early education at Eton, whence he passed to Cambridge. From his boyhood he was subject to attacks of gout, which troubled him through life, and while at college prevented his applying himself to his studies with the diligence necessary to obtain high honours. He made up for his deficiencies, however, by private study. His favourite authors were the brilliant orators and historians of ancient Greece and Rome, whose works afforded him the greatest delight, and laid the foundation of that grand eloquence with which afterwards he made himself so famous in parliament.

3. Not being wealthy, it was necessary, as soon as he reached manhood, that Pitt should make choice of some profession, and a cornetcy in a cavalry regiment was obtained for him. In the year 1735 he entered parliament as member for the historic borough of Old Sarum, and soon distinguished himself by his vigorous and eloquent attacks upon the policy of Sir

Robert Walpole. Pitt had high notions of honour in public affairs, and lost no opportunity of lifting up his voice against the bribery and corruption which disgraced public life at that time. For his opposition to the government, the 'terrible cornet of horse' was deprived of his commission in the army. He then devoted himself entirely to politics, and speedily won a reputation for eloquence which no man of his years had previously gained.

4. The war of the Austrian Succession, which was entered into by England chiefly on account of the king's German leanings, was strongly opposed by Pitt, who thus incurred the royal displeasure. But, careless of honours or rewards, he still advocated the measures which he thought most conducive to his country's interest, and continued to show the strongest hatred to all that was base or unjust. Thus, although royalty frowned upon him, he was steadily rising in popularity with all classes of his countrymen.

5. At the commencement of the *Seven Years' War*, things looked very gloomy for England. Disaster had befallen her arms in America, and great dissatisfaction existed throughout the country. Pitt's opportunity was come at last. The nation would no longer tolerate any other man at the head of affairs. Accordingly, the king was compelled, much against his will, to call him to his councils, as principal Secretary of State. For five years Pitt continued to guide the destinies of his country, which, under his vigorous administration, was raised to a pitch of greatness both in foreign

and home affairs, which excited the envy and admiration of neighbouring states.

6. George II. died in the year 1760, and with a new king came changes. The post of Prime Minister was given to the great court favourite, Lord Bute, and Pitt resigned. Some years afterwards he took office again, and was raised to the peerage as Earl of Chatham. He was, 1766-1768 A.D. however, so severely afflicted by his old malady the gout, that he was unable to take any active share in the government, and was obliged to spend most of his time either at Bath, or at his own family seat, for the benefit of his health.

7. During the last ten years of Chatham's life, the question uppermost in men's minds was the quarrel with our American colonies. In the early years of the dispute, the aged statesman's voice was often heard in the House of Lords, pleading the cause of the colonists, and advocating conciliatory measures while it was yet time. But in spite of his efforts the two countries gradually 'drifted into war.' As campaign after campaign passed over, and the Americans showed no signs of yielding, a party gradually grew up in the country and parliament, which advocated the casting adrift of those colonies as being an expense and encumbrance; and in the session of 1778 a proposal to this effect was made.

8. This was the occasion of Chatham's memorable last appearance in the House of Lords. He was suffering from illness, and had to be assisted to his place by his friends. Touching, it must have been, to see the venerable statesman, whose frame was



exhausted by disease, rise to address his brother peers. His concluding words were, that he 'rejoiced he was still alive to lift up his voice against the dismemberment of this ancient and most noble monarchy.' Shortly after uttering these words, he sunk down in a fit on the floor of the house. He was conveyed to his residence at Hayes; but the hand of death was upon him, and he expired a few weeks afterwards.

**Pitt**, Earl of Chatham, is sometimes spoken of in history as 'the elder Pitt,' to distinguish him from his eminent son of the same name.

**Commoner**, one of the common people, as distinguished from the nobles.

**Cornetcy**, the rank of cornet in the army. The cornet was once an inferior officer in the cavalry. It is now abolished in the regular army, the rank of sub-lieutenant having taken its place.

**Old Sarum**, as we shall see, became famous during the agitation for Reform in 1831. It was a very old town; but after New Sarum, or Salisbury, was built near it, it gradually became quite deserted.

**Hayes**, in Kent.

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## LESSON XXII.

### War of American Independence, 1775—1783 A.D.

1. The colonies, which since the beginning of the seventeenth century had been planted in North America by the British, had gradually taken root and grown into flourishing states, the people of which were distinguished for their sturdy enterprising character, and their love of freedom. But even in their new home, and with the broad Atlantic rolling between, the colonists still retained feelings of *good-will and affection* for the mother-country.

2. It was in the year 1765, when George Grenville was Prime Minister, that the unhappy measures began, which were destined to end in the revolt of our American colonies. For the purpose of making the colonists contribute to the revenue of England, a *Stamp Act* was imposed upon them by our parliament. The Americans resolutely opposed this measure, arguing that as they did not send representatives to the British Parliament, that body had no right to levy taxes upon them, and asserting that 'taxation without representation was tyranny.' The most enlightened British statesmen took the same view, and eventually the obnoxious act was repealed.

3. Unfortunately, the grace of this concession was completely marred some time afterwards by an attempt to enforce a tax upon tea. The colonists were now thoroughly roused, and rather than submit to be taxed, declared their determination to do without tea altogether. Several British merchant-vessels, which had entered the harbour of Boston with cargoes of tea, were boarded by parties of men disguised as red Indians, and the tea-chests were thrown into the sea. Notwithstanding the hostile spirit thus exhibited, prudent and conciliatory measures on the part of the British might still have averted a contest. Unfortunately, the helm of the state was in the hands of Lord North, a man whose chief qualification for office was his ready obedience to the king. From the beginning, George was most resolute in his determination to crush the opposition of the colonies. His personal power was now firmly established; and in Lord North he found a pliant and good-natured

servant, who, for twelve years, seconded his efforts to destroy American freedom.

4. The first blood shed in this unhappy conflict was in a skirmish at Lexington, near Boston, brought about by our seizing some military stores which the Americans had collected at the town of Concord. This affair was followed shortly afterwards by the bloody battle of **Bunker Hill**, in which  
1775 A.D. the British, though victorious, suffered severely. Indeed, throughout the war, which lasted during eight campaigns, the colonists in every action proved themselves to be sturdy antagonists, whom every defeat seemed only to brace up to a more stubborn resistance. The commander-in-chief of the Americans was the illustrious George Washington, who possessed all the high qualities requisite for carrying out to a successful issue the arduous struggle upon which they had entered. In their civil affairs they were assisted by the sagacity of the well-known Benjamin Franklin, who afterwards became their ambassador at the court of France.

5. Before much progress had been made in warlike operations, the Americans issued their  
4th July famous *Declaration of Independence*, which  
1776. declared the colonies to be free and independent states. For a time the American arms were not successful. An invasion of Canada—which had not joined the other colonies in their revolt—was repulsed, and Washington was defeated in several battles in the neighbourhood of New York; but the tide of success at length began to turn in their favour. A British force, under General Burgoyne,

attempted to make its way from Canada into the heart of the States. It had some successes at first; but as it marched farther and farther into the



enemy's country, it was gradually hemmed in, and compelled to surrender, with all its stores, at **Saratoga**. As the war went on, all the efforts of our generals failed to win any permanent success against the skill and perseverance of Washington. 1777 A.D.

6. In their struggle for freedom, the Americans were assisted by many Frenchmen of rank, the chief of whom was the Marquis de la Fayette. These enthusiasts for liberty afterwards disseminated their republican ideas in France, and this undoubtedly hastened the revolution in that country. In the year 1778 both France and Spain formally recognised the independence of the United States, and war was declared against England. There was now a growing feeling in this country that it would be better to close the war, and grant the Americans all their demands. But the conflict lingered on until

**1781 A.D.** Lord Cornwallis was shut up in **York Town**, with an army of six thousand men, and finally compelled to surrender to a combined American and French force. This

**1783 A.D.** was really the closing event of the war, although peace was not formally concluded till the following year by the *Treaty of Versailles*.

7. The closing years of the war were marked by some events which had a cheering effect upon the depressed spirits of Englishmen at that time. The first was the heroic defence of Gibraltar under the renowned veteran, General Elliot. For **1779-1782 A.D.** three years a combined Spanish and French force assailed the fortress both by sea and land. General Elliot successfully repulsed all their attacks; and when at length they had prepared for a grand final assault, which was, as they thought, to be irresistible, he received them with a shower of red-hot cannon-balls. After that they had no further heart for fighting, and soon afterwards gave up the

siege. Another event was the splendid victory over the French fleet, gained by Admiral Rodney in the West Indies (1782). In the East Indies also, our arms fully maintained their former superiority, both over the native rulers and the forces of France.

**The Stamp Act (1765).** This was an act requiring that a stamp should be used for wills, legal documents, &c. The money paid for these stamps was, of course, to go to the British government.

**Bunker Hill,** at Boston in New England.

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## LESSON XXIII.

### A Picture of English Life in 1783.

Hark ! 'tis the twanging horn ! O'er yonder bridge  
That with its wearisome but needful length  
Bestrides the wintry flood, in which the moon  
Sees her unwrinkled face reflected bright,  
He comes, the herald of a noisy world,  
With spattered boots, strapped waist, and frozen locks,  
News from all nations lumbering at his back.  
True to his charge, the close-packed load behind,  
Yet careless what he brings, his one concern  
Is to conduct it to the destined inn,  
And, having dropped the expected bag, pass on.  
He whistles as he goes, light-hearted wretch,  
Cold and yet cheerful ; messenger of grief  
Perhaps to thousands, and of joy to some ;  
To him indifferent whether grief or joy.  
Houses in ashes, and the fall of stocks,  
Births, deaths, and marriages, epistles wet  
With tears that trickled down the writer's cheeks  
Fast as the periods from his fluent quill,

Or charged with amorous sighs of absent swains,  
Or nymphs responsive, equally affect  
His horse and him, unconscious of them all.  
But oh the important budget ! ushered in  
With such heart-shaking music, who can say  
What are its tidings ? Have our troops awaked ?  
Or do they still, as if with opium drugged,  
Snore to the murmurs of the Atlantic wave ?  
Is India free ? And does she wear her plumed  
And jewelled turban with a smile of peace ?  
Or do we grind her still ? The grand debate,  
The popular harangue, the tart reply,  
The logic, and the wisdom, and the wit,  
And the loud laugh—I long to know them all ;  
I burn to set the imprisoned wranglers free,  
And give them voice and utterance once again.

Now stir the fire, and close the shutters fast,  
Let fall the curtains, wheel the sofa round,  
And while the bubbling and loud-hissing urn  
Throws up a steamy column, and the cups  
That cheer but not inebriate, wait on each,  
So let us welcome peaceful evening in.

*Cowper.*

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## LESSON XXIV.

### **The Interval of Peace, 1783—1789 A.D.**

1. Between the close of the American War and the breaking out of the great French Revolution there was an interval of peace, during which home affairs received special attention. In the year 1783, William Pitt—second son of the distinguished statesman of the same name, and hence known in history

as 'the younger Pitt'—was by George III. appointed Prime Minister at the early age of twenty-four. His political opponents, the leader of whom was the distinguished Whig statesman, Charles James Fox, scoffed at the 'school-boy' premier; and by their harassing parliamentary tactics, tried to make him resign. The king, however, firmly supported Pitt; and at the general election of 1784, the nation also declared in his favour by a large majority; and he continued to guide the destinies of the country for the long period of seventeen years.

2. The first measure of importance carried by Pitt was the *India Bill*. Recent events in India had shown how necessary it was that the government should exercise greater influence in the empire, which had so rapidly sprung into existence under the auspices of the East India Company. For this purpose, the bill provided for the establishment of a board of control which should have the direction of political affairs, leaving to the company its trading privileges, and the management of ordinary business. 1784 A.D.

3. In the following year Pitt, who stood pledged to a measure of *Parliamentary Reform*, introduced a bill on the subject. It proposed to take away the members from a number of small decayed boroughs, and transfer them to the counties, and to London. But the opinion of parliament was not yet ripe for a scheme like this, and it was rejected by a large majority. As years passed over, Pitt seems to have lost taste for his early reforming opinions, as he gave the cause no further 1785 A.D.



aid; and in fact, the long French wars, which commenced shortly afterwards, had the effect of banishing the subject from people's minds for more than a quarter of a century.

4. This period is noted for one of the most famous state trials which have ever taken place in this

country—the **Trial of Warren**

**1788—1795 A.D. Hastings.** The career of Hastings

had been as remarkable as that of Clive. Going out to India a young man in the year 1750, by the force of his character and abilities he rose gradually to distinction, and in the year 1773 was appointed the first Governor-general of India. During his able rule, which lasted for twelve years, the British possessions were greatly extended and consolidated. His enemies asserted, however, that his conduct had been too much like that of eastern princes, and that he, in order to obtain money to replenish the coffers of the East India Company, had been guilty of tyranny and oppression. Accordingly, upon his return to England, articles of impeachment were drawn up against him, and he was brought to trial in Westminster Hall, which on the opening occasion was crowded to excess by the most distinguished persons of the realm. The chief accusers were Burke, Sheridan, and Fox. The orations they delivered were amongst the most splendid ever listened to, and produced great excitement. But although the opening was so brilliant, the progress of the trial, which went on for eight years, was tedious and unexciting. The interest in *it gradually* died out, and long before it was over,

public opinion changed to the side of the accused, who was ultimately acquitted.

5. In the year 1788, the mind of the king became seriously affected. As early as the year 1765, he had shown slight symptoms of insanity, but on that occasion he speedily recovered. The second attack of this distressing malady was of a more serious character; and, as he did not seem likely to recover, it became necessary that a bill should be brought into parliament to appoint a regent. The measure gave rise to many heated debates. Fox, as the personal friend of the Prince of Wales, advocated the prince's sole right to the regency with full kingly power; while Pitt, on the other hand, successfully maintained the privilege of parliament to appoint the regent, and to define his powers. Before the bill finally passed into law, however, the king suddenly recovered. The rejoicings which took place all over the kingdom when the event became known, showed how firm a hold the king had gained upon the affections of his subjects.

**Board of Control.** This arrangement for the control of Indian affairs lasted till 1858, when the English Parliament took the government of India into its own hands.

**Warren Hastings** was born at Churchill in Oxfordshire in 1732, and died in 1818. By the great trial he lost all he had; but received a handsome annuity from the East India Company.



**GEORGE III.**

(PERIOD OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION, 1789—1815 A.D.)

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**LESSON XXV.****The Great French Revolution—Rise of Napoleon Bonaparte.**

1. In 1789 began one of the greatest events in modern history, the French Revolution. The French Revolution was a great revolt of the people of France against their old rulers, who had conducted the government of the country in the most unjust and tyrannical manner. The common people had to pay all the taxes rendered necessary by the long wars and the unbounded extravagance of the court, whilst otherwise they were cruelly oppressed and neglected. They had no control over the government; they were generally uneducated; and they were frequently destitute of the necessaries of life.

2. Gradually ideas of freedom had been diffusing themselves in France; and at last the people rose against their rulers, and overturned all their old institutions. Unfortunately, the Revolution soon became marked by the most violent excesses, and the king, Louis XVI., who was an amiable man, was quite unable to restrain it. Change succeeded

change, and one scene of blood followed another, resulting in the death by the guillotine of the king, and his queen Marie Antoinette. Thereupon, a **Republic** was proclaimed, and the **Reign of Terror** began, during which the

mob of Paris took the government into their own hands, and committed deeds of the most revolting cruelty.

3. The rulers of Europe were now greatly alarmed by the events which were taking place in France. Fearing that the same spirit of revolt might spread among their own subjects, and hoping easily to suppress the Revolution at Paris, most of them declared war against France. But instead of winning an easy victory, their armies were defeated by the forces of the republic. The French soon became the invaders; they gained many successes, and it was greatly feared that the doctrines of the Revolution would gain a mastery over the whole of Europe.

4. In this state of affairs, Pitt reluctantly saw himself driven into a war with France. He was extremely sorry to abandon his favourite projects of retrenchment and reform, and to enter upon a bloody and expensive struggle; but the feeling in England against the Revolution grew very strong. The French, also, were bitterly hostile to England; and were the first to declare war, at the beginning of 1793.

5. In the war by land, which we waged in Flanders, our forces were unsuccessful. Though surrounded by enemies on every side, the French Republic was more than a match for them all. The



English Infantry  
Officer (1795).

armies of England, Prussia, Austria, and the other allied powers, were hurled back from her northern frontier, and then driven out of Belgium. In mid-winter, the French overran Holland; a French cavalry regiment even galloping over the ice, and capturing the Dutch fleet lying in the Texel!

6. Though defeated in the Netherlands, the British maintained their old supremacy at sea. In the great battle of the First of June 1794, Admiral Howe completely defeated the French fleet off Brest. Throughout the years 1796 and 1797, England was in most serious peril. Having conquered Holland, and compelled Spain to join them as a dependent ally, the French designed to unite the fleets of these countries with their own, and attempt the invasion of Ireland, where they expected the people to rise in their favour. In our own fleet, also, there were alarming mutinies. These dangers, however, were successfully met; the mutinies were appeased; the Spanish fleet was completely defeated by Admiral Jervis off Cape St Vincent; and in the hard-fought battle of Camperdown, Admiral Duncan overcame the naval forces of Holland.

7. In the meantime, there had arisen in France a man who was destined to play a great part in the history of Europe. This was Napoleon Bonaparte. He was a Corsican by birth, and first displayed his military talents in his capacity of artillery officer, at the defence of Toulon against the British. This and subsequent services attracted the notice of the Directory of the Republic, by whom he was intrusted with the command of the

army destined for the invasion of Italy. He was completely successful. The celerity with which he moved his troops from one place to another, and the impetuous nature of his onsets, completely disconcerted the old military tacticians, who waged war upon the old lines. 1796 A.D.

8. Napoleon's next enterprise was the invasion of Egypt. He seems at this time either to have had dreams of founding an empire in the East, or of diverting England's attention from European affairs by threatening her possessions in India. At Acre, he got his first taste of the resolute courage of the British, who held the place successfully against all his attacks. Thereupon, he returned to France, and was soon afterwards elected to the position of First Consul of the republic. He had not yet, however, reached the summit of his ambition. Two years later he was declared emperor, and from that time he bent all his energies towards the conquest of Europe. 1798 A.D.

The **Directory** in France at that time was a government carried on by a body of five men. After lasting for some years, it was overturned by Napoleon.

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## LESSON XXVI.

### Battle of the Nile, 1798 A.D.

1. The warlike activity which prevailed in France in the year 1798 led many people to suppose that an invasion of England was contemplated. Accordingly, measures were taken to give the French a warm reception, if they should venture to approach our

shores. The militia and volunteers were drilled and kept in readiness for any emergency. As in the old days of the Spanish Armada, preparations were made for lighting beacon-fires on hill-tops and promontories, whenever danger appeared; and every suspicious sail which rose above the horizon at sea was eagerly scanned by watchers on the shore.

2. But England had already found in Nelson a naval hero, whose victories were destined to secure our island-home against the invader. Horatio



Birthplace of Nelson.

Nelson was born in 1758 at Burnham-Thorpe, a Norfolk village, where his father was rector. At an early age he went to sea, and in almost every part of the world soon distinguished himself by his

matchless courage and energy. The victory of Cape St Vincent was greatly owing to him. He had already been present at more than one hundred and twenty engagements; and he had infused his own daring spirit into his men. 'My seamen,' he said of them, 'are now what British seamen ought to be—almost invincible. They really mind shot no more than peas.'

3. As we have already seen, however, Napoleon had no intention at this time of invading England. Egypt was his destination. Leaving the harbour of Toulon with a powerful squadron, having on board his army of conquest, he succeeded in eluding the British fleet, and in landing his forces at Alexandria before Nelson could come up with him. When the British admiral came in sight of land, he found the French fleet, to the number of thirteen sail of the line and four frigates, drawn up in shoal water in the Bay of Aboukir. The British force was somewhat inferior, both in number of men and guns. But it was not Nelson's custom to mind a little disparity of strength when he found himself in the presence of an enemy. Though darkness was approaching, therefore, and the foe occupied a most formidable position, close to a lee-shore, he gave the signal for instant attack.

4. On hearing Nelson's determination, one of his officers exclaimed, 'If we succeed, what will the world say?' 'There is no *if* in the matter,' replied Nelson: 'that we shall succeed, is certain; who may live to tell the tale, is a very different question.' The British 'seventy-fours' then bore down upon the



enemy in gallant style. Nelson ordered half of his fleet to force their way inside the French line, even at the risk of grounding on the lee-shore, and to open fire as they took up their positions; while with the other half he attacked the French in front.



The Battle of the Nile.

Through the greater part of the night the cannonade went on. At intervals a British cheer was heard above the terrific din, as one after another of the French ships was disabled and ceased firing. In

the heat of the action, a terrible catastrophe took place. The French admiral's ship *L'Orient*, a large three-decker, of one hundred and twenty guns, and with a crew of a thousand men, was found to be on fire. Even in this dreadful extremity her crew continued to fight on with the courage of despair. As the flames rose higher and higher in the burning vessel, they lighted up the whole scene of conflict; while on the low Egyptian shore could be seen crowds of swarthy spectators watching the progress of the fight. The flames continued to spread with great rapidity, and at last reached the powder magazine. Then, in a moment, the noble vessel was blown into a thousand fragments.

5. The sound of the explosion rose far above the thunder of the cannonade, and for a short time the rival combatants were awed into silence. Nelson, with his usual humanity, ordered out boats to pick up any of the survivors who were struggling in the water. Then the contest was resumed, and went on far into the night. When morning dawned, and the result of the engagement could be clearly seen, it was found that nine of the enemy's line-of-battle ships had been captured, and two destroyed. The others managed to effect their escape. Not one of the British ships had surrendered. The number of killed and wounded was very heavy, but especially on the side of the French. Nelson himself was wounded in the head by a splinter; but, to the great delight of his men, by whom he was idolised, the wound was declared not to be dangerous.

6. This great victory, besides crippling the navy

of France for a time, imprisoned the force which had been landed in Egypt. After two campaigns, Napoleon embarked for France, leaving his army behind him. It was eventually routed  
1800 A.D. by Sir Ralph Abercromby at the battle of **Alexandria**, and thus vanished Napoleon's dreams of Eastern dominion.

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## LESSON XXVII

### **The Union of Great Britain and Ireland, 1801 A.D.**

1. The closing years of the eighteenth century, which found England engaged in an arduous struggle with France, also produced troubles nearer home. Ireland was in a state of disaffection. Ever since the time of Strongbow, that unhappy country had proved a source of weakness rather than strength to us. English rule had not been of a kind to reconcile Irishmen to our sway; and consequently, it was generally found, that when foreign complications arose, the sympathy of the Irish people was with our foes rather than with ourselves; and the saying, that 'England's extremity was Ireland's opportunity,' contained, unhappily, too much truth.

2. Such being the state of feeling in the sister Isle, the contagious influence of the French Revolution soon made itself felt, and the ever-smouldering discontent burst out into rebellion. An association was formed for the purpose of throwing off the yoke of England, and establishing Ireland as a free

republic, in imitation of the United States and France. It was called the Association of United Irishmen, and comprised among its members persons of all classes and creeds. The plot, which spread far and wide, was revealed to the government by spies. Steps were at once taken for suppressing the conspiracy, and the leaders of the movement, Lord Edward Fitzgerald and others, were seized. In spite of these precautions, however, a rising took place, and many acts of cruelty were committed by the infuriated partisans of either side before it could be put down. The insurrection was never really formidable from a military point of view, and the great mass of the rebels were at length defeated and scattered at **Vinegar Hill** in Wexford; after which the rebellion gradually died away.

3. These lamentable events showed the necessity of taking measures for preventing such occurrences for the future. Accordingly, a bill was brought into parliament by Pitt, for the purpose of uniting the legislatures of the two countries, as had been done in the case of Scotland nearly a century before. There were many stormy discussions, especially in the Irish Parliament, before the measure was finally passed into law. All difficulties, however, were at length overcome, and the Irish representatives transferred their sittings for the future from College Green, Dublin, to Westminster, London. Thirty-two seats in the House of Lords, and a hundred in the House of Commons, were allotted to them. The Viceregal Court was still retained in Dublin; but a Secretary for Ireland, who was to be

a member of the House of Commons, was appointed to assist the Lord Lieutenant. Steps were taken at the same time for placing the commercial relations of the country upon a more satisfactory footing, and under the new arrangement Ireland was exempted from much of the taxation which affected England.

4. Pitt had been touched by the sufferings of Ireland; and it was his design to introduce still further measures for ameliorating the condition of that unhappy country, and thus make the union which had just been effected really beneficial, by attaching the Irish people loyally to Great Britain. Unfortunately, the king was obstinate. He was impressed with the notion, that if he sanctioned the putting of Roman Catholics upon an equality with Protestants, he would be guilty of violating his coronation oath. Pitt at once gave up the seals of office; and it was reserved for statesmen of later times to carry out some of the reforms which he had suggested.

5. Although the union has not produced all the improvements hoped for by its promoters, it was undoubtedly a step in the right direction. The ills of Ireland had been of long standing; but time, patience, and generous treatment would, it was hoped, heal up old wounds, and unite Great Britain and Ireland in the bonds of peace, friendship, and prosperity.

**Viceregal Court,** the court of the Viceroy at Dublin. The Viceroy in Ireland acts in the place of the sovereign.

**Coronation Oath.** This is the oath to maintain the laws and the Protestant religion as established, which every sovereign takes on *ascending the throne*.

## LESSON XXVIII.

**The Battle of Hohenlinden.**

[This battle was fought after Napoleon's return from Egypt, when the French, under Moreau, gained a great victory over the Austrians under Archduke John. The battle took place on the 3d Dec. 1800, the battle-ground being a plateau above the river Iser, near Hohenlinden, a little village in Bavaria.]

On Linden, when the sun was low,  
 All bloodless lay the untrodden snow,  
 And dark as winter was the flow  
     Of Iser, rolling rapidly.

But Linden saw another sight,  
 When the drum beat, at dead of night,  
 Commanding fires of death to light  
     The darkness of her scenery.

By torch and trumpet fast arrayed,  
 Each horseman drew his battle-blade,  
 And furious every charger neigh'd  
     To join the dreadful revelry.

Then shook the hills with thunder riven,  
 Then rushed the steed to battle driven,  
 And, louder than the bolts of heaven,  
     Far flashed the red artillery.

But redder yet that light shall glow  
 On Linden's hills of purpled snow;  
 And bloodier yet the torrent flow  
     Of Iser, rolling rapidly.

'Tis morn, but scarce yon level sun  
Can pierce the war-clouds, rolling dun,  
Where furious Frank and fiery Hun  
Shout in their sulphurous canopy.

The combat deepens. On, ye brave,  
Who rush to glory, or the grave!  
Wave, Munich! all thy banners wave,  
And charge with all thy chivalry!

Few, few shall part where many meet!  
The snow shall be their winding-sheet;  
And every turf beneath their feet  
Shall be a soldier's sepulchre.

*Campbell.*

**At dead of night.** The battle of Hohenlinden began during the night  
in the midst of a forest.

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## LESSON XXIX.

### **Battle of Trafalgar, 1805 A.D.**

1. Never since the days of the 'Invincible Armada' had Britain been in so great danger of invasion as in the memorable year 1805. Napoleon had recently been raised to supreme power in France, and his ambitious mind was filled with grand schemes of universal empire. Hitherto, the British had proved his most troublesome foes; and had, as we have seen, thwarted his plans in Egypt and the East. Hating, therefore, as well as dreading the valorous islanders, he resolved to throw a large army across the Channel, and punish 'perfidious Albion' by

repeating the events of 1066, and triumphing over her in a second 'Hastings.'

2. Accordingly, he at once set on foot gigantic preparations for the invasion of this country. Being master of both Holland and Belgium, the resources of an extended coast-line were available to him; and every port, from Rotterdam to Brest, was employed in collecting munitions of war, and building flat-bottomed boats for the reception of the army of conquest. All being in readiness, the whole armament was to rendezvous at Boulogne, where the land forces were encamped. In the meantime, the combined fleets of France and Spain were to assemble in the Channel; and while one portion held Nelson and the British navy in check, the remainder was to escort the flotilla quietly to our shores.

3. While all these formidable preparations were going on, the English were not idle. War-vessels of all kinds were incessantly hovering near the French ports, and retarding the operations in every possible way. Nelson displayed unceasing vigilance in looking after the French fleets, and was determined that not a single hostile keel should ever plough the waves of the British Channel, if he could prevent it. In order to lure him away on a false scent, two French squadrons proceeded to the West Indies, as if for the purpose of attacking some of our possessions in that quarter; but, having united their forces, they returned under a press of sail to Europe before Nelson could come up with them. Having eluded the British com-



mander for a time, they at once effected a junction with the Spanish fleet, and the whole force, under Villeneuve, set sail for England. Before they had proceeded far, however, they were encountered by another British squadron, under Sir Robert Calder, off Ferrol, on the coast of Spain; and, to Napoleon's chagrin, were driven back to the harbour of Cadiz.

4. Meantime, Nelson had once more returned to England; and the whereabouts of the enemy being at length known, he hoisted his flag on board the *Victory*, and once more put to sea in search of Villeneuve. The French admiral seemed reluctant to face the redoubtable Nelson; but, urged by repeated commands from Napoleon, he at last ventured out of Cadiz with thirty-three sail of the line, and took up his position in two crescent-shaped lines close to a rocky shore off Cape Trafalgar. As soon as Nelson came in sight of the enemy, he arranged his fleet, which consisted of twenty-seven line-of-battle ships, in two divisions, and at once bore down upon the French. Upon nearing the foe, he hung out his memorable last signal, '*England expects that every man will do his duty.*'

5. The gallant Collingwood, with the *Royal Sovereign*, was the first to get into action. He cut through the French line astern of a large three-decker, and engaged her at the muzzle of her guns; and his example was speedily followed by the division under his charge. The brilliant attack of Collingwood excited Nelson's admiration, and he exclaimed to his officers, 'See how bravely that

gallant fellow Collingwood steers his ship.' At the same moment, Collingwood was remarking, 'What would not Nelson give to be here.' As the *Victory* majestically approached the enemy, she was made a target for all their broadsides, with the hope of disabling her before she could get to close quarters with them. But silently the noble vessel pursued her way till within pistol-shot. Then singling out a huge Spanish four-decker in the first line, and a Frenchman in the second, she was laid right between them; and in a moment opened a terrific fire from both sides upon her two antagonists, and before long they both had enough of the furious cannonade. The other British vessels entered into the fight in a similar spirit, and soon the action extended along the whole line.

6. Nelson had a presentiment that he should not survive this engagement; but he refused, nevertheless, to divest himself of the uniform to which were attached the badges of distinction received at various times during his victorious career. He was thus a conspicuous mark to the men who, with their muskets, had been posted in the rigging of the enemy's vessels, for the purpose of picking off the British officers. Just when the action was at its hottest, Nelson received a ball in his breast from one of these marksmen, and fell upon the deck mortally wounded. Sympathetic hands carried him below, where he lingered a few hours in great agony. This, however, did not prevent him from making the most anxious inquiries from time to time about the progress of the action. At length, upon being informed that a great

number of the enemy's ships had struck, and that a complete victory had been obtained, he



Death of Nelson.

exclaimed, 'Thank God, I have done my duty;' and a few moments afterwards, the brave heart had for ever ceased to beat.

7. Even before the news of this victory was received, Napoleon had seen the impossibility of landing an army of invasion in England; and for the remainder of the war, the French were never again formidable at sea, England being thus relieved from all dread of a foe setting foot upon her shores.

**Spain** was at this period a kind of dependant ally of Napoleon.



Nelson.

## LESSON XXX.

**Ye Mariners of England.**

Ye Mariners of England !  
Who guard our native seas, .  
Whose flag has braved, a thousand years,  
The battle and the breeze ;  
Your glorious standard launch again,  
To match another foe,  
And sweep through the deep,  
While the stormy tempests blow ;  
While the battle rages long and loud,  
And the stormy tempests blow.

The spirits of your fathers  
Shall start from every wave !  
For the deck it was their field of fame,  
And Ocean was their grave ;  
Where Blake and mighty Nelson fell,  
Your manly hearts shall glow,  
As ye sweep through the deep,  
While the stormy tempests blow ;  
While the battle rages long and loud,  
And the stormy tempests blow.

Britannia needs no bulwarks,  
No towers along the steep ;  
Her march is o'er the mountain-waves,  
Her home is on the deep :  
With thunders from her native oak,  
She quells the floods below,  
As they roar on the shore,  
When the stormy tempests blow ;  
When the battle rages long and loud,  
And the stormy tempests blow.

The meteor-flag of England  
Shall yet terrific burn,  
Till danger's troubled night depart,  
And the star of peace return.  
Then, then, ye ocean-warriors !  
Our song and feast shall flow  
To the fame of your name,  
When the storm has ceased to blow ;  
When the fiery fight is heard no more,  
And the storm has ceased to blow.

*Campbell.*

## LESSON XXXI.

**William Pitt, the Younger.**

BORN 1759; DIED 1806.

1. William Pitt, the younger, was, as before observed, the second son of the great Earl of Chatham, and he inherited all his father's abilities and eloquence. In his boyhood, he displayed a quickness of parts perfectly astonishing; and showed a remarkable aptitude for reciting select passages from the standard authors, and especially from Shakspeare and Milton. This faculty was assiduously cultivated by an affectionate father, himself the foremost orator of the day. Years afterwards, when Pitt was at the height of his fame, it was a standing joke among the wits of London, that he had been 'taught by his dad on a stool.' His delicate health prevented him from acquiring any great distinction at the university, but he was nevertheless well known and admired by a large circle of acquaintances.

2. In the year 1781, Pitt entered parliament as member for Appleby, and his maiden speeches soon convinced his hearers that the mantle of the father had fallen upon the son. So conspicuous were his abilities, that, at the early age of twenty-three, he was promoted to the responsible post of Chancellor of the Exchequer in the administration of Lord Shelburne. On the death of this nobleman, which took place shortly afterwards, the celebrated 'Coalition Ministry' of Fox and North succeeded to

power. They brought in a bill for the better regulation of Indian affairs. It was generally unpopular, and being vigorously opposed by Pitt, was thrown out, and the ministry thereupon resigned. Fox and his colleagues fondly expected that the king would not be able to do without them; but to their intense astonishment, George III. selected Pitt for his Prime Minister.

3. Being still in a great majority in the House of Commons, Fox and his followers strove to bring ridicule upon the youthful minister, and tried to make him resign by incessantly harassing him in the conduct of affairs, and impeding the progress of public business. Pitt, however, manfully maintained his post, and was well backed up by the king, who was anxious to aim a blow at the influence of the Whigs. The nation at last became interested in this parliamentary struggle, and sided with the king and his minister. At the general election of 1784, a great majority was returned in Pitt's favour, and Fox's party was greatly reduced.

4. For seventeen years Pitt continued to guide the destinies of the country, and, during this long and trying period, exhibited the greatest resolution and sagacity, combined with the highest eloquence. In the interval of peace which occurred before the French Revolution, he displayed the most enlightened statesmanship. He advocated the reform of parliament; negotiated a commercial treaty with France; successfully carried a bill for the better government of India; gave the deathblow to smuggling; and, by establishing a sinking fund for the reduction of the

national debt, restored confidence in the public credit, and thus gave an impetus to trade and commerce. Unfortunately, however, just as the country seemed to be entering upon a long career of peace and prosperity, the French Revolution broke out, and disturbed all his plans. From that moment, he devoted all his energies to the maintenance of peace at home, and the preservation of our honour abroad.

5. The disturbances which occurred in Ireland towards the close of the century, led to the passing of a measure for the union of the two legislatures. Not being able, however, to obtain the king's sanction to concessions which he deemed necessary for making the act of union thoroughly efficacious, Pitt resigned the premiership, and was succeeded by Addington. During the interval of Pitt's retirement, the *Treaty of Amiens* was signed by England and France. But the peace 1802 A.D. which ensued lasted only a short time, and was employed by Napoleon in gigantic preparations for further schemes of conquest. Under these circumstances, Pitt was again called to power in 1804.

6. He entered upon his new tenure of office with enfeebled health, but with unabated resolution. The policy he inaugurated of combining the various European states to resist the aggressions of Napoleon, he did not live to see successful; and there can be little doubt, that excessive anxiety as to the result hastened his end. At this period his spirits seemed continually weighed down, as if by some terrible calamity. The news of the victory of Trafalgar seemed to cheer him up somewhat; but the tidings



of Napoleon's triumph at Austerlitz again depressed him. The sands of the great statesman's life were nearly run. He lingered a few weeks longer, and then expired, January 23, 1806. A grateful country voted him a public funeral, and a monument in Westminster Abbey.

7. Like his father, William Pitt was rather haughty and austere in public, but within his breast there beat a kindly heart; and in private life, when he allowed his reserve to thaw, he was gentle and affectionate. He had no cravings for honours or distinctions, and never enriched himself at the expense of the state. He was entirely free from the follies and vices commonly indulged in by men of fashion in that age. He never married—he seemed to live for his country alone; and in her service displayed a rare example of disinterestedness, integrity, and ability.

**The Chancellor of the Exchequer** has charge of the money affairs of the country.

**The Coalition Ministry** was so called, because it was formed by a *coalition* or union of the followers of Fox and Lord North.

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## LESSON XXXII.

### **Charles James Fox.**

BORN 1749; DIED 1806.

1. Among the distinguished statesmen and orators of George III.'s reign, Charles James Fox occupies one of the foremost places. He was the leader of the Whigs, as Pitt was of the Tories. The eloquence and

ability which both of these eminent men displayed in advocating their respective views, have never been surpassed in the history of the House of Commons.

2. Charles James Fox was the son of Henry Fox, first Lord Holland. Like his opponent, he gave evidence in youth of brilliant natural abilities; and those who knew him best predicted for him a successful future. While still a boy, his father took him abroad to Paris and Spa; and unfortunately he was allowed to mix too freely with the votaries of pleasure assembled in those fashionable resorts. In this way he acquired a taste for habits



Lady and Gentleman (1793).

which, as he grew older, became more confirmed, and which he found it very difficult to throw off, even at a later age. There can be little doubt that, even in that frivolous age, his passion for gambling and kindred indulgences made him compare very unfavourably with Pitt, who was free from such failings.

3. Fox entered parliament as member for Midhurst in the year 1769. He soon distinguished himself as an eloquent debater. His brilliant intellectual gifts,

coupled with an affectionate warmth of disposition, speedily drew around him a large circle of attached friends, among whom was the celebrated Edmund Burke, himself one of the greatest orators and statesmen of the day. In the debates which took place upon the American War, Lord North had no more troublesome opponent than Fox, who rapidly rose to be the leader of the Whigs. When Lord North was at last compelled to resign in 1782, Fox became the leading spirit of the cabinet under whose auspices peace was concluded, and the independence of America acknowledged. Shortly afterwards he took a false step. He and his friends joined with Lord North and the Tories, and formed the famous 'Coalition Ministry,' the fate of which we have already seen. Even Fox's best friends could not defend his conduct in uniting with a statesman whose policy he had just before so strongly opposed.

4. Upon the breaking out of the French Revolution, Fox sympathised with the French in their efforts for liberty; and he ridiculed the dread which many statesmen had of revolutionary principles spreading to this country. On this question he and his friend Burke took different sides. Fox felt this separation so keenly that the tears stood in his eyes when he referred to it. Burke predicted that the liberty sought after by the French would degenerate into license, and that, in the end, they would fall under the heel of a despot. This view, in the main, was also taken by Pitt.

5. In the year 1797, Fox abated the virulence of his attacks upon the policy of Pitt; and for some

time parliament saw little of him. He seems, about this period of his life, to have determined upon settling down to literary pursuits, in which he had always found the greatest solace, and to which he had been accustomed to flee for distraction from the cares of business or pleasure. He actually commenced a 'History of the Revolution of 1688,' a work which he had long contemplated; but he never got it completed. The course of events once more seduced him from the quiet of his study into the parliamentary arena. On the death of Pitt, and the accession to power of Lord Grenville, he accepted office as Secretary of State. He immediately took steps for negotiating a treaty of peace with France, but he did not live long enough to achieve this result. In a few short months he succumbed to the toil and worry of business, and was laid to rest beside his great rival in Westminster Abbey.

And ne'er held marble in its trust  
Of two such wondrous men the dust.  
With more than mortal powers endowed,  
How high they soared above the crowd!  
Theirs was no common party race,  
Jostling by dark intrigue for place;  
Like fabled gods, their mighty war  
Shook realms and nations in its jar;  
Beneath each banner, proud to stand,  
Looked up the noblest of the land,  
Till through the British world were known  
The names of PITT and FOX alone.

*Scott.*

**Spa**, a famous watering-place in Belgium.  
**Midhurst**, an old town in Sussex.

## LESSON XXXIIL

**The Peninsular War, 1808—1814 A.D.**

1. Napoleon, after having already set his foot upon the necks of several states, made an excuse for meddling in the affairs of Spain. By skilful management he contrived to get possession of the chief fortresses; and when all was ripe, he coolly set aside the ancient Bourbon dynasty, and placed his brother Joseph on the throne. The Spaniards were sadly degenerated from their ancient glory, but they still retained some portion of their old pride, and bitterly resented this encroachment on their liberties. Being under the iron heel, however, their struggles were unavailing.

2. But a champion was coming to their assistance—an ancient foe, who pitied their oppressed condition, and burned with indignation at Napoleon's tyrannic insolence. This was England—now the chief hope of outraged Europe. She had beaten Bonaparte on the sea, and he was now to find that, even on land, British generalship and British valour were more than a match for all his legions.

3. The English Government accordingly resolved, in 1808, to send out a military expedition to the Peninsula. The force sent consisted of only 10,000 men, under the command of Arthur Wellesley, afterwards Duke of Wellington. He landed in Portugal, defeated the French at Vimiera, and drove them from the country. A second and larger expedition,

under Sir John Moore, was not so fortunate. In order to support the people of Spain in their resistance to the French, Sir John marched into the heart of that country. But after arriving at Salamanca, he learned that the Spanish armies had been dispersed, and that Napoleon, before whom Madrid had first fallen, was marching upon him with 70,000 men. To remain where he was, his comparatively small army of 25,000 men all but surrounded by the enemy, and ill supplied with food and clothing, was impossible. Under these circumstances, his only course was to retreat, which he now did, pursued by a French army under the celebrated Marshal Soult.

4. The British marched northwards, a distance of 250 miles, towards the Bay of Biscay; and though suffering incredible hardships the whole time from cold, hunger, and fatigue, so skilfully was the retreat effected, that Soult could not come up with them till they had reached the heights overlooking Corunna, where they intended to embark. As the transports were late in arriving, however, the British general had to fight a parting battle with Soult. The French were defeated; but <sup>16th Jan.</sup> 1809 A.D. the success was dearly bought; the gallant Moore was killed by a cannon-ball, and buried on the ramparts of the town. In token of his admiration for the gallant English general, Soult generously erected a monument over his grave.

5. The military administration of the English Government during 1809 was marked by the calamitous **Walcheren Expedition**. Otherwise, their credit was redeemed by the able manner in which Wellesley,

who had succeeded, after Sir John Moore's death, to the chief command in Spain, executed his military projects there. He inflicted a great defeat upon a French force at **Talavera**, and then retired into Portugal. Wellington now found that to clear the Peninsula from the enemy would be a work of time and patience. He felt,



therefore, that he must husband his resources, and watch his opportunity. He accordingly entrenched himself behind the celebrated lines of **Torres Vedras**, with his back to the sea and his face to the foe. These lines formed a place to which he could safely

retire when hard pressed by the enemy, and where he could conveniently receive his supplies from England.

6. The next year, Massena invaded Portugal with a numerous force, for the purpose of driving the British to their ships. But what was his surprise, to find himself confronted by the formidable lines of Torres Vedras! He was totally unable to pierce them, and was eventually compelled to retreat, after suffering heavy loss.

7. Wellington at length began to reap the fruits of his patience. He had got his army into so good a condition, that he ventured once more towards Madrid. Marmont barred the way with a strong force, but he was repulsed with great slaughter at **Salamanca**. After this victory, Wellington entered Madrid in triumph, Joseph Bonaparte and his retinue flying at his approach. 1812 A.D.

8. The following year, Wellington felt himself strong enough to march northwards. His last great victory on Spanish ground was at **Vittoria**, where the enemy were concentrated. In their retreat, the French had carried with them a great quantity of spoil, in the shape of plate and jewellery. All this fell into the hands of the victors. The French were now flying across the Pyrenees; and as soon as he had reduced some strong fortresses in his line of march, Wellington pressed on in pursuit. Neither Soult nor the Pyrenees could stop his irresistible advance. He had known when to wait. He now showed he knew when to strike. He worsted Soult in several encounters in 1813 A.D.



the passes of the Pyrenees, and wintered with his army on French territory.

9. On the opening of the campaign the next year, Wellington had several bloody conflicts with Soult.

The last of these engagements was at 1814 A.D. **Toulouse**, where the French army was finally scattered. The British then pursued their march to Paris, where they joined the victors of Leipsic; Napoleon was forced into retirement at Elba; while the allies held a congress at Vienna for settling the affairs of Europe.

10. During the closing years of the great war with Napoleon, we were unfortunately engaged also in a conflict (1812—1815) with the United States of America. The quarrel arose out of disputes about our rights at sea. The fortune of war was various. We repelled the American invasion of Canada, and took Washington; but our frigates were frequently beaten in single encounters at sea, and an attack we made on New Orleans was disastrously repulsed. Peace was at length arranged, leaving things as they were.

**The Bourbon Dynasty.** This was the name of the family of kings that ruled France before the Revolution in 1789. As we have seen, a grandson of Louis XIV. became king of Spain at the time of the war of the Spanish Succession. In this way the Bourbon Dynasty gave kings also to Spain.

The lines of **Torres Vedras** were constructed to defend from French invasion the peninsula on which Lisbon stands. The lines were three in number, one behind another, every hill and stream being turned to good purpose for raising fortifications to stop the progress of the French.



## LESSON XXXIV.

**The Burial of Sir John Moore.**

Not a drum was heard, not a funeral-note,  
 As his corse to the ramparts we hurried ;  
 Not a soldier discharged his farewell shot  
 O'er the grave where our hero we buried.

We buried him darkly at dead of night,  
 The sods with our bayonets turning,

By the struggling moonbeams' misty light,  
And the lantern dimly burning.

No useless coffin inclosed his breast,  
Nor in sheet nor in shroud we wound him ;  
But he lay like a warrior taking his rest,  
With his martial cloak around him.

Few and short were the prayers we said,  
And we spoke not a word of sorrow ;  
But we steadfastly gazed on the face of the dead,  
And we bitterly thought of the morrow.

We thought, as we hollowed his narrow bed,  
And smoothed down his lonely pillow,  
That the foe and the stranger would tread o'er his head,  
And we far away on the billow !

Lightly they'll talk of the spirit that's gone,  
And o'er his cold ashes upbraid him—  
But little he'll reck, if they let him sleep on  
In the grave where a Briton has laid him.

But half of our heavy task was done,  
When the clock struck the hour for retiring ;  
And we heard the distant and random gun  
That the foe was sullenly firing.

Slowly and sadly we laid him down,  
From the field of his fame fresh and gory ;  
We carved not a line, we raised not a stone—  
But we left him alone with his glory.

*Wolfe.*

## LESSON XXXV.

**The Walcheren Expedition, 1809.**

1. One of the most disastrous military projects in modern history was the Walcheren Expedition, undertaken in 1809 with the view of assisting our continental allies against Napoleon. The object of the expedition was to seize on Antwerp, an important Belgian naval station and arsenal, at that time held by the French. The force composing it consisted of 40,000 men, who were embarked on board 400 transports, and accompanied by nearly 250 vessels of war. The public might well augur great things from so splendid an array.

2. The expedition, however, was mismanaged from the very beginning. It was intended that its destination should be kept secret; but the arrangements for its despatch were attended with so much parade and display, that the point of attack was not only known in England, but announced in the French journals. The Earl of Chatham, elder brother of the younger Pitt, who was appointed commander of the land forces, was quite unfit to be intrusted with so important an enterprise. With him went Sir Richard Strachan, as admiral of the fleet.

3. The great armament sailed from the Downs on the 28th of July, and reached the Dutch coast on the following day. Instead of at once proceeding to Antwerp, Lord Chatham wasted a fortnight in taking Flushing, a town on the island of Walcheren,

at the mouth of the Scheldt. With this insignificant achievement the military enterprise came to an end. The commanders seemed as if suddenly paralysed. No attempt was made to ascend the river to Antwerp; and while thus losing valuable time, an enemy more difficult to resist even than Napoleon, had entered within their lines.

4. Walcheren was at that season of the year the most dangerous place of occupation which the army could have fixed upon. The climate of the islands



at the mouth of the Scheldt was very unhealthy; and on Walcheren, from its low level and damp soil, marsh-fever in autumn was excessively prevalent. These

things were well known to the military authorities who fitted out the expedition; yet they neglected to take the most ordinary precautions. No proper medicines had been sent with the army; and though the surgeon-general had implored Lord Castlereagh to send at least three hospital ships, only one had been provided. In spite of all these facts, the British commander continued to hold fast to the plague-town which he had captured, and appeared to have altogether forgotten his great task, which was the taking of Antwerp.

5. While the leaders of the English expedition procrastinated, the French had assembled a large force for the defence of Antwerp, and the opportunity for successful action had passed away. The endless delays and blunders excited the most unbounded indignation at home. The partisans of Chatham blamed the admiral, and the friends of Admiral Strachan blamed Chatham. The public, equally disgusted with the conduct of both, condemned them alike in the following popular satire :

Lord Chatham with his sword drawn,  
Stood waiting for Sir Richard Strachan ;  
Sir Richard, longing to be at 'em,  
Stood waiting for the Earl of Chatham.

6. In the meantime, the pestilence was doing its ghastly work. A malady of the most fatal kind had broken out among the soldiers. Flushing had been taken in the middle of August, and by the end of that month Chatham wrote home that all progress of the army was at an end, that 3000 of his men were stricken down by fever, and that the soldiers were taking the infection at the rate of 200 a day. By the middle of September as many as 11,000 soldiers were prostrated, and a great portion of the army had been ordered home. With these Chatham himself returned, leaving the remainder to their fate. Fifteen thousand men were thus left behind on the island ; and these, living in roofless huts, without proper food or medicine, and exposed to all the rigours of the climate, began to suffer dreadfully. At length the order for their recall was issued ; though the last of

the British troops did not quit the island till the end of December. Of the 40,000 soldiers that took part in the expedition, 35,000 from first to last required to be sent to the hospital.

7. Thus disastrously did this great expedition end. Mismanagement and misfortune had attended it at every step. It had been despatched just as the sickly season was setting in, and it was recalled just as it ended. Napoleon wrote of it, that it 'had been undertaken under false expectations, and planned in ignorance.' At home, the ministry were severely attacked by the public journals; and in the House of Commons, they only escaped a vote of censure by a small majority.

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## LESSON XXXVI.

### **The Battle of Waterloo, 1815 A.D.**

1. Bonaparte only remained long enough in his retirement at Elba to give the allies time to withdraw their armies from France. As soon as the way was clear, he made his escape, and was received with enthusiasm by the generals and soldiers whom his late campaigns had called into existence. The new Bourbon king, Louis XVIII., fled at his approach; and in a very short time Napoleon, who had resumed the reins of government, was making preparations to take the field.

2. The armies of the allies were also speedily set in motion. The Duke of Wellington took up his quarters at Brussels, with an army of 80,000 men.

Of this force, however, only 30,000 were British, the remainder being made up of Belgians, Dutch, and Hanoverians, upon whom the same reliance could not be placed. An army of Prussians, under the veteran Blücher, lay nearer the frontier, and was destined to co-operate with the British in an advance upon Paris from the north; while the Russians and Austrians were pouring masses of men towards the Rhine, with the view of entering France from the north-east.

3. Napoleon resolved to attack the separate armies before they could effect a junction; and with this object in view, at once crossed the frontier, and entered Belgium at the head of 130,000 men. One portion of this force under Ney assailed the British at **Quatre Bras**, while the other division, under Napoleon himself, made an attack upon Blücher at **Ligny**. The British held their position successfully; but the Prussians, after a severe struggle, were compelled to retreat. Detaching an army of 30,000 men under Grouchy to hold the Prussians in check, Napoleon with the bulk of his force, to the number of about 80,000, now turned upon Wellington, whom he expected to overpower before the Prussians could get to his assistance. On hearing of Blücher's disaster at Ligny, the Duke at once altered his plans. He fell back to the position of Waterloo, a battlefield which he had previously fixed upon as suitable for resisting the approach of an enemy to Brussels. By this retrograde movement he made it still possible for Blücher to join him; and thus, by his strategy, he deprived Bonaparte of the advantage gained by his success at Ligny.



4. The field of Waterloo consisted of a broad valley, bordered on the north and south by gentle ridges, upon which the opposing armies lay facing each other during the night of Saturday, the 17th of June. Previous to the engagement, the valley was covered with fields of waving corn. The homesteads to which these fields were attached had been deserted by the peaceful occupants, and were now taken



Wellington at Waterloo.

possession of by the British as points of vantage; and it was round these usually quiet farm-houses that some of the hottest fighting of the day took place, the French trying to obtain possession of them at any cost, and the British maintaining their lodgment in them with stubborn obstinacy.

5. The battle commenced at ten o'clock on the morning of Sunday, the cannon firing across from ridge to ridge. Body after body of the French swept across the valley against the British, but each time only to be driven back in confusion before they reached the crest of the eminence. The enemy's most terrible attacks were made by their cuirassiers, a body of cavalry clad in mail. These formidable foes again and again came sweeping impetuously onward. They were met and foiled by the British infantry formed in squares, bristling with bayonets. Thus the battle raged for some hours—the French delivering furious attacks, the British steadily resisting. June 18.

6. As evening approached, the British were compelled by sheer weight of numbers to abandon some of the positions they had held early in the day. But still the forces along the crest of the hill stood firm. The Prussians also began to come up, and vigorously attacked the French right. At last Napoleon, seeing that no time was to be lost, ordered the grand charge of the day. The Imperial Guard, the flower of all his veterans, and thought to be invincible, was hurled against the British line. They were received with a storm of grape-shot and musketry, but on they came in spite of all. They advanced till almost within pistol-shot. They were seen to waver. This was the critical moment, and it did not escape the eagle eye of Wellington, who at once gave the command to the English guards, who had been lying upon their faces, to spring up and rush upon the foe with the bayonet. Nothing could

stem that terrific charge. Napoleon's Imperial Guard was driven pell-mell down the slope in irretrievable confusion. The British cavalry now mixed with the fugitives. As soon as Napoleon saw the red-coats among his veteran troops, he exclaimed, 'It is all over,' and galloped from the field. In a few minutes the whole French army was in headlong flight. The Prussians gave chase to the retreating foe; while the tired British rested on the field they had so bravely won.



1st Foot Guards  
(1815).

7. Thus terminated the great battle of Waterloo, which finally put an end to Napoleon's schemes, and gave many years of peace to Europe. For the remainder of his life, the disturber of the peace of Europe was shut up in the lonely isle of St Helena.

**Grape-shot**, shot or small iron balls which are clustered together like a bunch of *grapes*. When fired, they are scattered all about and do great havoc.

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## LESSON XXXVII

### The Eve of Quatre Bras.

There was a sound of revelry by night,  
 And Belgium's capital had gathered then  
 Her Beauty and her Chivalry, and bright  
 The lamps shone o'er fair women and brave men;  
 A thousand hearts beat happily; and when  
 Music arose with its voluptuous swell,

Soft eyes looked love to eyes which spake again,  
And all went merry as a marriage bell :  
But hush ! hark ! a deep sound strikes like a rising knell !

Did ye not hear it ? No ; 'twas but the wind,  
Or the car rattling o'er the stony street :  
On with the dance ! let joy be unconfined ;  
No sleep till morn when youth and pleasure meet  
To chase the glowing hours with flying feet :  
But hark ! that heavy sound breaks in once more,  
As if the clouds its echoes would repeat ;  
And nearer, clearer, deadlier than before !  
Arm ! arm ! it is—it is—the cannon's opening roar !

Ah ! then and there was hurrying to and fro,  
And gathering tears, and tremblings of distress,  
And cheeks all pale, which but an hour ago  
Blushed at the praise of their own loveliness ;  
And there were sudden partings, such as press  
The life from out young hearts, and choking sighs  
Which ne'er might be repeated : who could guess  
If ever more should meet those mutual eyes,  
Since upon night so sweet such awful morn could rise ?

And there was mounting in hot haste : the steed,  
The mustering squadron, and the clattering car,  
Went pouring forward with impetuous speed,  
And swiftly forming in the ranks of war ;  
And the deep thunder peal on peal afar ;  
And near, the beat of the alarming drum  
Roused up the soldier ere the morning star ;  
While thronged the citizens, with terror dumb,  
Or whispering with white lips—'The foe ! they come ! they  
come !'

And wild and high the 'Cameron's Gathering' rose !  
The war-note of Lochiel, which Albyn's hills  
Have heard ; and heard, too, have her Saxon foes :  
How in the noon of night that pibroch thrills,  
Savage and shrill ! But, with the breath which fills  
Their mountain-pipe, so fill the mountaineers  
With the fierce native daring which instils  
The stirring memory of a thousand years,  
And Evan's, Donald's fame rings in each clansman's ears !

And Ardennes waves above them her green leaves,  
Dewy with Nature's tear-drops, as they pass,  
Grieving, if aught inanimate e'er grieves,  
Over the unreturning brave—alas !  
Ere evening to be trodden like the grass,  
Which, now beneath them, but above shall grow  
In its next verdure, when this fiery mass  
Of living valour, rolling on the foe,  
And burning with high hope, shall moulder cold and low.

Last noon beheld them full of lusty life,  
Last eve in beauty's circle proudly gay,  
The midnight brought the signal-sound of strife,  
The morn the marshalling in arms—the day  
Battle's magnificently stern array !  
The thunder-clouds close o'er it, which when rent,  
The earth is covered thick with other clay,  
Which her own clay shall cover, heaped and pent,  
Rider and horse—friend, foe—in one red burial blent !

*Lord Byron.*



## LESSON XXXVIII.

**After the Great War, 1815—1820 A.D.**

1. After the victory of Waterloo, the Congress of Vienna resumed its sittings for the purpose of settling the affairs of Europe. France was reduced to her old limits. England received Cape Colony and a part of Ceylon, which had been taken from the Dutch; the island of Mauritius, in the Indian Ocean; a few of the smaller West Indian Islands; and Malta and Heligoland, in Europe. These arrangements were formally ratified by the **Treaty of Paris**. A long 20th Nov.  
1815 A.D. period of peace now ensued, and the various countries that had taken part in the great war had time to count the cost. England had received a considerable addition to her foreign possessions, and had greatly increased her military and naval prestige; but the drain upon her finances had been enormous. As the other countries of Europe did not possess the means to carry on the struggle, they had been largely assisted from the English exchequer; and thus the treasure of England, as well as her blood, had been freely lavished in the gigantic contest. The national debt had increased more than threefold. At the commencement of the war, it stood at 260 millions sterling; at its close, it had reached the prodigious amount of 860 millions.

2. During the progress of the contest, the nation

had submitted willingly, if not cheerfully, to the sacrifice. To outward appearance, indeed, the country had never been more prosperous than during the struggle, as the vast sums of money expended on munitions of war kept trade in a flourishing condition. With the conclusion of peace, however, there came a rude awakening. The demand for manufacturing produce fell off, and many workmen were thrown out of employment. Wages became low and bread dear. Great distress prevailed throughout the country; and the same people who had rent the air with acclamations on receiving news of Nelson's or Wellington's victories, now found that war, however necessary it may sometimes be, had its dark as well as its bright side; its miseries, as well as its glories.

3. Consequent upon the great distress, it was not long before mutterings of discontent were heard. The dissatisfaction was worked upon by political agitators, till sometimes it resulted in turbulence—ignorant men venting their spleen upon harmless machinery, which they foolishly thought interfered with their handicrafts, and thus caused their enforced idleness. In general, however, the agitation went no further than excited gatherings, which clamoured for reform of parliament and other changes. One of these assemblages attained an unhappy notoriety, owing to the criminal indiscretion of the authorities. A large reform meeting was held at Manchester to listen to political speeches. An enormous concourse of people collected. The gathering was orderly enough at first, and probably the proceedings would have passed off quietly; but a troop of yeomanry,

having authority from the magistrates to disperse the crowd, charged down upon it at full gallop, using their sabres right and left. The scene which ensued was heartrending. Women, and even children, were ridden down; and much bloodshed ensued before the people were finally scattered. Such was the **Manchester Massacre**, as it was termed. It was remembered by the **1819 A.D.** lower orders for many a day after, and sorely embittered them against the government.

4. The king knew nothing of all this. For nearly ten years he had been blind and insane. But his long life was now near its close; and on the 29th of January 1820, the good old king died, and the longest reign in English history came to an end. He was in the eighty-second year of his age, and had reigned sixty years. Two years afterwards, in the remote and lonely isle of St Helena, died Napoleon Bonaparte, after five years of exile. And thus, about the same time, upon two men who had both figured prominently



Napoleon Bonaparte.



on the stage of history, the curtain fell for ever.

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## LESSON XXXIX.

### Death the Leveller.

The glories of our birth and state  
Are shadows, not substantial things ;  
There is no armour against fate :  
Death lays his icy hand on kings :  
Sceptre and crown  
Must tumble down,  
And in the dust be equal made  
With the poor crooked scythe and spade.

Some men with swords may reap the field,  
And plant with laurels where they kill ;  
But their strong nerves at last must yield ;  
They tame but one another still :  
Early or late  
They stoop to fate,  
And must give up their murmuring breath  
When they, pale captives, creep to death.

The garlands wither on your brow ;  
Then boast no more your mighty deeds ;  
Upon Death's purple altar now  
See where the victor-victim bleeds !  
Your heads must come  
To the cold tomb ;  
Only the actions of the just,  
Smell sweet and blossom in their dust.

*J. Shirley.*

## LESSON XL

**Progress of the Nation, 1760—1820 A.D.**

1. The long reign of George III. formed, on the whole, a brilliant era in the history of Britain. The early portion of it, indeed, witnessed the loss of most of our American colonies ; but about the same time, the voyages of Captain Cook opened up a new field for British enterprise in Australia and New Zealand. During this reign the extension and consolidation of our empire in India went rapidly on, and the possession of Cape Colony, in South Africa, was secured to us. By the chances of war, several rich islands in the West Indies and elsewhere, also fell to our share.

2. Notwithstanding the many wars in which the country was engaged during this period, commerce developed enormously. At the commencement of the reign, the number of merchant-vessels was only 7000 ; at its close, the number had risen to 30,000. The value of the exports had increased from  $14\frac{1}{2}$  millions to  $43\frac{1}{2}$  millions, or just threefold ; while, in an equal degree, that of the imports had swelled from  $9\frac{1}{2}$  to 30 millions.

3. Agriculture also had greatly improved. The high prices of corn during the war periods stimulated farming operations. The king himself was a patron of this branch of industry, and established model farms in the neighbourhood of Windsor. He also encouraged the breeding of sheep by im-

porting superior kinds from abroad. His example, in these respects, was followed by many noblemen and gentlemen in different parts of the country. Probably the greatest improvement, and one which had a marked effect on the daily life of the people, was the general introduction of the turnip about the middle of the eighteenth century. The turnip insured a store of food for cattle during the whole winter; and now, instead of killing and salting our beef in the autumn, as our forefathers did, we have an abundant supply of fresh meat all the year round.

4. During this period, also, the manufacturing industry of the country greatly prospered. The introduction of the spinning-jenny and similar mechanical contrivances by Arkwright, Hargreaves, and others, caused a rapid expansion of the cotton trade of Lancashire. Cotton factories rapidly sprang into existence, and became the nucleus of numerous towns and villages. This trade received a still further extension, when the adaptation of steam to machinery by Watt and Boulton superseded the old water-power. The use of steam-power also caused a great increase of activity in all other branches of industry. The same progress was apparent in all the branches of manufacturing enterprise, 'from a button to a steam-engine,' and from a bobbin of thread to a web of cloth. In 1807, the streets of London were first lighted with coal-gas, and the example set by the metropolis was speedily followed by other towns. In 1814, the London *Times* was printed by steam-power, and

thus a revolution in the art of printing began, which has at length made the invention of Caxton a blessing to every household.

5. The means of communication throughout the country were also during this period greatly extended. The roads were wonderfully improved; but as they were found to be quite inefficient for the growing traffic of the country, other and speedier means of transit had to be devised. One of these means was the cutting of canals, which, under



The *Comet*—first Steamer on the Clyde.

Brindley, Telford, and other eminent engineers, went on rapidly, water-communication being at length established between all the principal towns. The growth of commerce gave rise to a demand for better

harbours for the reception of shipping. Experiments had already taken place, both on the Hudson and the Clyde, for moving vessels by steam. The railway locomotive, also, was already occupying the thoughts of Stephenson and other men of genius.

6. Though foreign affairs engrossed so much of the time of parliament during these years, several important changes in the laws were effected. In 1761, the appointments of judges were made permanent. In 1801, the legislative union between Great Britain and Ireland was effected. A few years afterwards, mainly by the exertions of Sir Samuel Romilly, a great mitigation of the penal laws was effected, by which the stealing of a horse or a sheep, and some other crimes, were taken out of the list of offences which had hitherto been punishable by death. A great victory for human freedom was achieved in the abolition of the slave-trade in 1807; in the next reign this was to be followed by a still greater triumph, the total abolition of slavery throughout the British dominions.

7. The reign of George III. was also a brilliant literary period, and produced a great number of eminent writers. Among the more prominent authors during the early part of the reign, we find the names of Samuel Johnson, the lexicographer; Goldsmith, author of the *Vicar of Wakefield*, and other works; Gibbon and Hume, the historians; Adam Smith, author of the *Wealth of Nations*; and Cowper and Burns, the well-known poets. In portrait-painting, Sir Joshua Reynolds was so great a master of the brush, that many of the

most famous men of that age seem to live again before us, as we gaze upon his canvas. Towards the end of the reign arose a still brighter constellation of men of genius, including the poets Byron, Shelley, and Keats; Southey, Coleridge, and Wordsworth; and Sir Walter Scott, famous both as poet and novelist.

8. The low state of morality for which the preceding age had been notorious, had not wholly disappeared. Wesleyanism, however, continued to spread among the masses of the people, and made wonderful religious conquests in Wales and Cornwall. Towards the end of this period, there were many signs that the reviving wand of progress had touched all departments of the national life.

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## LESSON XLI.

### **Condition of the People, 1760—1820 A.D.**

1. In the early part of this period, the condition of the people differed little from that of the time of George II. Among a section of the upper classes, there was still much dissipation and coarseness of manners. Gambling was carried on to a large extent; and duelling was common. The lower orders found their chief delights in the debasing pursuits of dog-fighting, cock-fighting, and bull and bear baiting. The police arrangements were very defective, robberies and murders being frequent, both in town and country.

2. Notwithstanding the great increase of wealth

among the farmers and traders, the condition of the working-classes was still very unsatisfactory. There was little or no education either in town or country. Bread and meat were at war prices, and wages were low. As a natural consequence, there was much pauperism. The dwellings of the poor were of the most wretched description, and there was a total neglect of sanitary arrangements. The discontent caused by this state of things frequently vented itself in riots and agrarian outrages.

3. In the early years of the cotton 'fever,' the mills were frequently kept going both night and day. As one gang of workmen retired, another took their place. The ill-ventilated rooms in which they worked, had a very injurious effect upon the health. As much of the work could be done by juvenile labour, numbers of children, chiefly orphans and others of the more destitute classes, were taken in as apprentices. Poorly fed, and scantily clothed, these miserable little wretches passed their youth in drudgery, without having the slightest means of education afforded them.

4. As time went on, however, an improvement became visible. The strict example in morality set by the king and queen was not without its effect. A purer literature diffused purer tastes. The revival in religion stirred men's consciences. The constant wars, with the misery and distress which resulted from them, had a sobering effect upon the spirits of the nation. All these influences slowly, but surely, combined to leaven the community, and to *produce a higher moral tone.*

5. In the matter of costume, the old fashions died hard. Towards the end of the century, however, the old square-cut coat had given way to the swallow-tail. The chimney-pot hat took the place of the three-cornered cocked hat of the earlier period. The use of hair-powder was still common, until William Pitt levied a tax upon it. After that, it speedily vanished, except amongst a few old gentlemen, who still clung to the customs of their youth. High-waisted dresses were much in vogue amongst the ladies, and gave them a very uncouth appearance. Perhaps the greatest peculiarity of all was the method of wearing the hair by both sexes. It took the form of a high slanting peak in front, something of a sugar-loaf shape.



Costumes (1817).

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LESSON XLII.**George IV., 1820—1830 A.D.**

1. The career of George IV. naturally divides itself into three parts. From his birth in 1762 to his father's enforced seclusion in 1810, we see him as Prince of Wales; for the next ten years he fills the office of Prince Regent; and subsequently, for ten



years more, he occupies the throne as king. From whichever stand-point he is viewed, there is little to excite our admiration or respect.

2. When Prince of Wales, he was addicted to follies and vices which shocked and grieved his good father. His highest ambition seemed to be to gain the approbation of flatterers, and to be styled by them the 'first gentleman in Europe.' Owing to his expensive indulgences, he was not able to live within his princely income; and parliament was frequently called upon to vote special sums in order to pay the debts incurred by his extravagance. Like former princes of this house, he showed a want of filial respect; and like them, he favoured the leaders of the opposition party in the state. He was the personal friend and boon-companion of Fox, Sheridan, and other kindred spirits of the time, who were frequent guests at Carlton House.

3. In the year 1795, he was married to Caroline of Brunswick. The union proved a most unhappy one, and the princess eventually left her husband, and went to reside in Italy. There was one child of this marriage, a daughter, the Princess Charlotte of Wales. Being an only child, her young life was watched with affectionate care by the whole nation, who regarded her as the future sovereign. As she grew to womanhood, her amiable disposition endeared her to all classes; and in 1816, there was general satisfaction when she was married to a worthy husband in the person of Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg. But the hopes founded on this union

were not destined to be realised. The unfortunate princess died the following year, and was laid in her grave amidst universal regret.

4. On the accession of George IV. to the throne, Caroline returned to England to assert her privileges as queen. The king was opposed to this, and sought to obtain a divorce, on the plea that she had conducted herself in an indiscreet and unqueenly manner while abroad. Accordingly, a bill to dissolve her marriage with the king was introduced into the House of Lords. The defence of the queen was intrusted to Henry, afterwards Lord Brougham, and so ably did he perform this duty, that the bill was eventually allowed to drop. Whatever were the faults of Queen Caroline, it was clearly established, during the course of the proceedings, that her married life had been most unhappy, and that she had suffered much ill-treatment at the hands of the king, her husband. The unfortunate queen, however, did not long survive her trials: she died in the following year. When her funeral took place, the populace, who had all along strongly sympathised with her, were with difficulty prevented from breaking out into riot. The king himself died in 1830.

5. The reign of George IV. was not marked by any very striking events. There was much distress in the country during its currency, and disturbances occurred in several parts. In 1820, the *Cato Street Conspiracy* was formed, which had for its object the assassination of all the king's ministers; but the plot was discovered in time, and the ringleaders were

captured and executed. A great agitation which, beginning in Ireland, had for its object the granting to Roman Catholics of equal political privileges with their Protestant fellow-countrymen, was in 1829 brought to an end by the passing of the *Catholic Emancipation Act*. The most important foreign

events during this reign were the  
 1824—1826 **Burmese War**, which resulted in an  
 A.D. extension of our Indian Empire beyond  
 the Ganges; and the destruction of the Turkish  
 1827 A.D. navy in the bay of **Navarino** by the  
 allied British, French, and Russian  
 fleets, which event led to the *Independence of Greece*.

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## LESSON XLIII.

### **Catholic Emancipation, 1829 A.D.**

1. The union of Great Britain and Ireland in 1801 did not produce the beneficial results which its promoters expected from it. The Irish were still too much treated as a conquered nation. The great majority of the people were, on account of their faith, debarred from sitting as members in the British Parliament, and from filling many public offices which were open to the Protestant minority. This state of things naturally produced great and just discontent, which prevented the country from settling down quietly into habits of order and progress. At the time of the union, as we have seen, Pitt wished strongly to relieve the grievances of the Catholics, and *thus make the union effectual*; and other prominent

statesmen, after his time, had been anxious to make further concessions. But the deep-rooted aversion of George III., and afterwards of George IV., to any change in this respect, had, up to the time of which we are speaking, prevented this desirable consummation.

2. A man now arose in Ireland who was in every way qualified to be the champion of his countrymen, and give voice to their grievances. This was the famous Daniel O'Connell, a man of great natural eloquence, strongly attached to his country, and with a keen sense of the wrongs which she had endured for centuries. His speeches, marked as they were at times by the broadest humour, at times by the most melting pathos, gave him a wonderful influence over the Irish people. He speedily became the most popular man in Ireland, and under his guidance a Catholic association was formed, which comprised the great mass of his countrymen.

3. In 1828, an opportunity occurred for showing the strength of the feeling which had been aroused. There was an election for Clare County, and O'Connell was nominated in opposition to the government candidate. The latter had the support of the great landowners, but after an exciting contest, the people's champion was triumphant, and Ireland rang from one end to the other with shouts of joy. This election, carried in defiance of the law that no Catholic could sit in Parliament, showed the spirit that had arisen in Ireland.

4. After these events, it was felt in England that something should at once be done, if open rebellion was to be prevented. The Duke of Wellington was

then Prime Minister, and Sir Robert Peel was his principal colleague. Both these statesmen had hitherto been opposed to reform. But they felt they had now to choose between concession and civil war; and they wisely changed their policy to suit the altered circumstances. A Bill for the Emancipation of the Roman Catholics was introduced by Sir Robert Peel into parliament, passed both Houses, and was reluctantly sanctioned by the king. In most respects this measure placed Catholics on an equal footing with Protestants, by rendering them eligible for posts for which previously they had been disqualified. The only offices from which they were still to be excluded were the Throne, the Viceroyalty of Ireland, and the post of Lord Chancellor. Daniel O'Connell was now legally elected for Clare, and took his seat in the British House of Commons, where for several years he was the recognised champion of the Irish people.

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#### LESSON XLIV.

##### **George Stephenson, the Founder of the Railway System.**

BORN 1781; DIED 1848.

1. During the long years of war which followed the great French Revolution, another revolution was silently commencing, which, though it neither excited the hostility nor aroused the passions of men, was destined to effect mightier changes for good, than the overthrow of any dynasty, whether

ancient or modern. This was the railway system. Splendid as was this achievement, it was not destined to be wrought out by the noble, or the eloquent, or the learned, or the warlike. It was reserved for an obscure 'pit laddie' to initiate a new mode of travelling, which, both directly and indirectly, has conferred untold benefits upon mankind.

2. George Stephenson was born in a humble pit-village on the banks of the Tyne, a few miles from Newcastle. His father was only a poor furnaceman earning a few shillings a week; and young George, like the majority of poor lads at that time, had to scramble up from boyhood to manhood without the means of education. But the disadvantages of his early life could not repress the genius within him. From herding cows and hoeing potatoes as a boy, he gradually rose, till he became 'brakesman' of a stationary engine at the mouth of a coal-pit. This employment was in every way congenial to his tastes. He was not satisfied with being able merely to work the handle of his engine; he took every opportunity of making himself thoroughly acquainted with the construction of its various parts; and his active and original mind was always planning improvements for increasing its utility.

3. About this time, Stephenson began to feel the want of education. He had heard something of the stationary engines of Watt and other famous inventors, and was desirous of learning all he could about them. This knowledge could only be obtained from books, and he was, as yet, unable to read. To

overcome this difficulty, he joined a night-school in a neighbouring village, and diligently applied himself to make good his deficiencies. The instruction thus obtained was all he ever received.

4. Shortly after this, Stephenson acquired much fame in his own neighbourhood, by curing the defects of a pumping-engine which had been erected at Killingworth Colliery, thus performing a feat which had baffled the combined efforts of all the local engineers. His success in this undertaking led eventually to his promotion to the post of engine-wright at the same colliery. In this capacity he

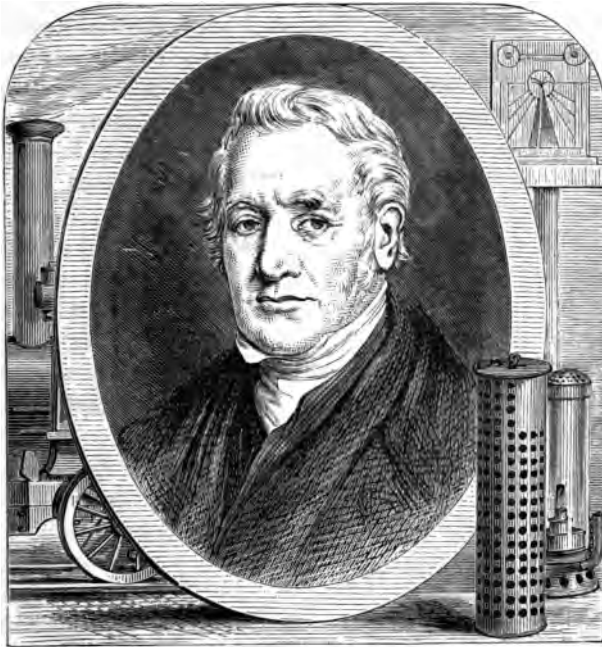
1814 A.D. built his first locomotive, and named it 'My Lord,' after his patron Lord Ravensworth. The common people nicknamed it 'Blutcher.' 'Blutcher,' though a very cumbersome and ungainly monster, was superior in working qualifications to any that had yet been made.

5. This was not Stephenson's only achievement. A series of calamitous colliery explosions, caused by the miners using naked lights when at work, led scientific men to invent a remedy. Stephenson

and Sir Humphry Davy, working quite independently, both invented and brought out a safety-lamp. These lamps are still in use amongst miners, the former being called the 'Geordy,' and the latter the 'Davy' lamp. For this service, Stephenson was presented with a sum of a thousand pounds, raised by subscription.

6. Besides making improvements on his locomotive from time to time, Stephenson also applied himself to the improvement of the rail for it to travel upon.

He had early seen that if the 'iron horse' was to become a success, a good 'iron road' would be required for it; and he endeavoured to make the improvements in the one keep pace with the improvements in the other. The first railway lines



George Stephenson.

were for goods traffic, chiefly for conveying coals from the pits to the seaports. It was the great aim of Stephenson to adapt the same means for the conveyance of passengers. The result of his efforts



was the Stockton and Darlington Railway, the first line for passenger traffic that ever existed, which was opened in 1825.

7. His next great achievement was the making of a line between Liverpool and Manchester. This work presented great difficulties, as one portion of the line had to cross a boggy district called 'Chat Moss,' over which eminent engineers had declared it impossible to make a firm road. Stephenson persevered, however, and at length succeeded in conquering all obstacles. The line was completed in 1830. The formal opening was celebrated by a competition between locomotives, the directors offering £500 as a prize for the best. Stephenson's 'Rocket' beat all the other competitors, and gained the prize. Every year after this saw fresh lines of railway made in all directions, and the old mode of travelling by stage-coach was rapidly superseded. After a career of unbroken prosperity, Stephenson died in 1848.

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## LESSON XLV.

### William IV., 1830—1837 A.D.

1. William IV. was the third son of George III. His accession to the throne afforded general satisfaction. Having previously been in the navy, he obtained the name of the 'Sailor King;' and his nautical frankness was more pleasing to the people than the foppery and fine manners of his brother. The new king did not disappoint expectations;

he was more willing to sanction reforms of various kinds than either of his two predecessors; and though short, his reign was a most useful one.

2. During the rule of the last three Georges, Britain had been for the most part engaged in extending and consolidating her empire in different parts of the globe. Domestic legislation had thus been neglected; and a time of peace was much needed for the carrying out of such reforms as might improve the condition of British subjects both at home and abroad. This desirable breathing-space was afforded by William IV.'s quiet reign.

3. The early years of this period are rendered famous by the passing of the *First Reform Bill*, which gave a larger share 1832 A.D. of representation in parliament to the masses of the people, and swept away much of the bribery and corruption which had prevailed for so long a period. The Reform Bill was the parent of other important measures. First in order came the bill for the *Abolition of Slavery*, a subject which 1833 A.D. had engaged the attention of philanthropic statesmen during a long course of years. This was followed by a new *Poor-Law Bill*, which corrected the abuses of the 1834 A.D. old system, under which relief had been so indiscriminately given, that those in real need were frequently elbowed aside by sturdy ragamuffins, who were too idle to work. Under the new scheme, it was provided that if an able-bodied man would not work, 'neither should he eat.' The last of this list of important reforms was the *Municipal Reform*.

*Act*, which gave to all towns of any considerable size the power of regulating their own affairs. By this Act, the mass of the people in each borough have the right of electing town councils, consisting of mayor, aldermen, and councillors; and to these miniature parliaments are intrusted the responsible duties of managing all the affairs of the borough, and of providing for the health, comfort, and cleanliness of the inhabitants.

4. King William died on the 20th of June 1837. His children having died in infancy, the next heir to the crown was his niece, Her Majesty Queen Victoria, the daughter of his brother Edward, Duke of Kent.

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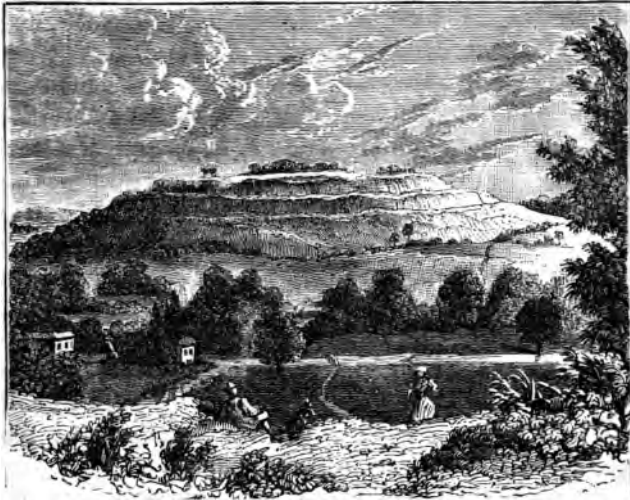
## LESSON XLVI.

### **The First Reform Bill, 1832 A.D.**

1. The English people had for centuries been proud of their House of Commons. In all their troubles, they had looked to it as a friend and protector, and they had not looked in vain. It had held spendthrift kings in check, stubbornly refusing to grant supplies until grievances were redressed; and it had been their champion when tyrannic kings tried to trample upon their liberties.

2. At last there came a time when the people lost faith in the House of Commons. They felt it was not really their own; that the members had not been elected by them, and therefore could not properly represent them, or act for them. *How was this?* Many of the old towns, which had been

important places in the times of the Tudors and the Stuarts, had now dwindled down, till they possessed scarcely any inhabitants. One, Old Sarum, had not a single house left, and many others had only very few. And yet these old places still retained the privilege



View of Old Sarum.

of sending members to parliament, as in the old days. The consequence was, that the seats fell into the hands of the great landowner who owned the property, and he frequently bestowed them upon his friends; or what was worse, perhaps sold them to the highest bidder. These boroughs were nicknamed *pocket-boroughs*, and there were a great number of them previous to the passing of the Reform Bill.

3. On the other hand, owing to the rapid growth of our manufactures, many towns, such as Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, and other places, had, during the last century, grown from almost mere villages into large cities. These places, though thriving and populous, had no members at all. Thus, in the course of time, the House of Commons had ceased to represent the mass of the nation. If, therefore, it was to retain its hold on the confidence and affection of the people, it became necessary that there should be a great change in the mode of electing the members. In his early years, as we have seen, the younger Pitt was desirous of bringing about a reform in the representation; but the long wars with France left little time for domestic legislation, and the subject was dropped for a time. At the conclusion of peace, however, the old cry again began to make itself heard. Year by year the feeling in favour of reform grew stronger; and when William IV. ascended the throne, it was the great and stirring question of the day.

4. The Prime Minister at this juncture was the Duke of Wellington. Being opposed to all reform whatever, and holding the opinion that parliament could not be improved, he was compelled to resign; and for a short time, his anti-reforming opinions made him one of the most unpopular men in the country. The Duke was succeeded by Earl Grey, who for many years had zealously advocated the cause of reform. The new ministers lost no time in bringing a bill into parliament. In the House of Commons, the measure was taken charge of by Lord John Russell, who

introduced it in a long and able speech. The sweeping changes proposed gave rise to much opposition, and ministers soon saw they would have great difficulty in carrying their scheme. They accordingly determined to appeal once more to the country. Parliament was immediately dissolved, and a fresh election took place amidst the greatest excitement.

1st March  
1831 A.D.

5. The new parliament showed so large a majority in favour of the bill, that it was carried through the House of Commons without difficulty. It had next to face the ordeal of the House of Lords, where the feeling against it was bitterly hostile. The country watched the progress of the debate with intense anxiety. After a long discussion, the peers threw out the bill. This was the signal for great disturbances throughout the country, and serious riots took place at Bristol, Nottingham, Derby, and elsewhere. In order to allay the excitement, the measure was again introduced, and numerous petitions were forwarded to the king, beseeching him to use his personal influence with the peers to get the bill passed. For some time its fate was doubtful. The Lords seemed strongly inclined to reject it again. Had they done so, the consequences might have been most disastrous. So great was the feeling of irritation throughout the country, that a general rising and a march upon London were at one time imminent. Under these circumstances, the ministers asked and obtained the king's sanction for creating an overwhelming number of new peers in order to swamp the oppo-

7th June  
1832 A.D.

sition. This extreme measure was, however, not required. At the critical moment, the opponents of the measure withdrew from the House, and allowed it to pass into law.

6. The new Reform Bill made many sweeping changes. Fifty-six of the old towns were deprived of their members altogether, and thirty others were permitted to return only one instead of two. Of the seats thus obtained, sixty-five were given to the most populous counties; while forty-three new boroughs were created, and had one or two members allotted to each. The franchise or right to vote was also greatly extended; in counties, to all *tenants* paying £50 a year; and in towns, to all householders who paid £10 rent or upwards. It was reserved for the Second Reform Bill, passed thirty-five years later, practically to give votes to all householders in boroughs, with a correspondingly reduced franchise in counties.

7. The passing of this great measure settled the question of reform for many years afterwards; the confidence of the people was restored; and to the parliaments elected under this bill, the country is indebted for much beneficial legislation.

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## LESSON XLVII

### **The Abolition of Slavery.**

1. Slavery was introduced into America shortly after its discovery. The demand for this kind of labour led to an extensive traffic in negroes

from the west coast of Africa. British traders did not scruple to enrich themselves by embarking in this degrading species of commerce, and British vessels were made the dishonourable receptacles for cargoes of human beings. Between 1700 and 1786, no fewer than 610,000 negroes were thus imported into Jamaica alone. Ruthlessly torn from their homes and families, these wretched beings were transported across the ocean, and sold in the open market to the highest bidder, like so many head of cattle. They then became the absolute property of their master, and were doomed for the remainder of their lives to a pitiless bondage. And not only so: the taint of slavery was transmitted to their unhappy offspring, who were thus born to a heritage of wrong.

2. Nor was the sale of slaves confined to America; even in England, slaves brought home by their masters were not unfrequently sold. In the *London Gazetteer* of 1769, for instance, there is an advertisement of 'a well-made, good-tempered black boy,' for sale; and in another London newspaper of the same year, 'a black girl, eleven years of age,' is advertised for sale. In 1772, however, this practice was declared to be contrary to the law of England; and the poet Cowper could joyfully say:

Slaves cannot breathe in England; if their lungs  
Receive our air, that moment they are free;  
They touch our country and their shackles fall.  
That's noble, and bespeaks a nation proud  
And jealous of the blessing. Spread it, then,  
And let it circulate through every vein



Of all your empire ; that where Britain's power  
Is felt, mankind may feel her mercy too.

3. In the latter part of the reign of George III., a noble band of men, at the head of whom were Wilberforce and Clarkson, devoted themselves to the task of arousing the nation to a sense of the enormity of permitting slavery in our dominions. They had to contend against formidable opposition, for many influential men at home, as well as the slave-holders in our West Indian colonies, were interested in maintaining the wretched system. But they were engaged in a righteous cause, and success eventually crowned their efforts. In the year 1807, an act of parliament was passed declaring the slave-traffic from Africa to America, the West Indies, or elsewhere, illegal, and prohibiting British traders and British vessels from engaging in it. This was a step in the right direction; but there still remained the larger question of abolishing slavery entirely. Wilberforce and his friends still continued their philanthropic crusade, and the conscience of the nation was at length awakened. At the beginning of William IV.'s reign, the abolition of slavery had become a practical question, second in importance only to that of reform; and in the election gatherings of that time, anti-slavery banners, with the picture of a negro in chains, and bearing the inscription, 'Am I not a man and a brother?' floated side by side with the banners of reform.

4. In the very first year after the passing of the *Reform Bill*, the question was brought under the

attention of parliament. A measure was introduced for the suppression of slavery in the British dominions; and through the powerful advocacy of men like Lord Brougham it soon became law. The enormous sum of twenty million pounds sterling was granted as compensation to the slave-holding interest. This great act of national self-sacrifice was the more noteworthy, as the poorer classes were even then suffering from the hardness of the times. The generous instincts of the nation had, however, been aroused. The people had just been redeemed from what had been considered by them to be political slavery, and they seemed truly animated by the spirit of the divine precept, 'Freely ye have received, freely give.' Thus, the first act of the reformed parliament was one of which all Englishmen may well be proud.

5. And where were the men who had 'borne the burden and heat of the day?' One—the noblest of the band—William Wilberforce, had just passed to his rest a few weeks before the measure finally became law. He lived long enough, however, to be told that parliament had voted the money wherewith to purchase the freedom of every slave within the British dominions. 'Thank God,' he exclaimed with fervour, 'that I should have lived to witness a day in which England is willing to give twenty millions sterling for the abolition of slavery!'



## LESSON XLVIII.

**Queen Victoria, 1837—1882 A.D.**

1. The Princess Victoria was only eighteen years of age when, on the death of her uncle William IV., she was called upon to fill the throne of Britain. She had been carefully trained for her high destiny; and her accomplishments and amiability of character led Englishmen to look forward to a bright and prosperous reign, which should eclipse even the traditional glories of the days of 'good Queen Bess.' These expectations have been more than realised. Victoria's reign has been a happy one for England; and as years have rolled on, the attachment of the people to the throne has been strengthened, as they have witnessed the spotless domestic life of the queen, and her anxiety for the comfort and happiness of her subjects.

2. The first result of the accession of Victoria was the severance of Hanover from the British crown. By the law of that realm, a female was not permitted to reign; and thus the German principality, which had come to us with the first George, and which had been the cause of so many continental entanglements, ceased for the future to be associated with the fortunes of this country. The crown of Hanover now reverted to the Duke of Cumberland, the queen's uncle.

3. In the year 1840, the queen was married to her *cousin*, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. The

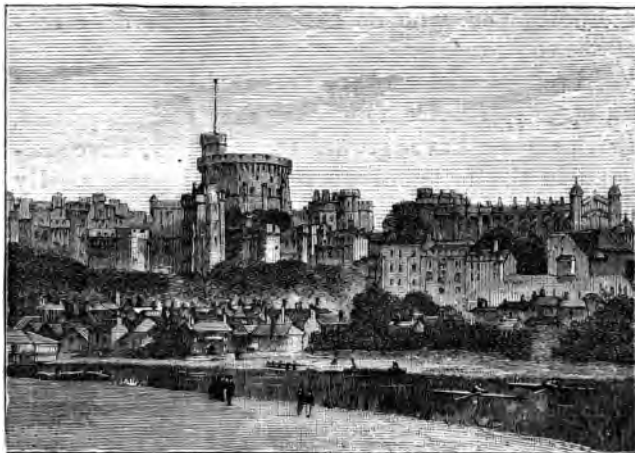
union proved a happy one both for the sovereign and the country. In Prince Albert the queen found a most affectionate husband, and a sagacious adviser in those multifarious duties which fall to the royal lot; while the energy and ability he at all times displayed in promoting the welfare of his adopted country, procured for him in time the solid respect of Englishmen, who do not readily give their confidence to strangers.

4. From the union of the queen with Prince Albert has sprung a noble family of sons and daughters, who, as they have grown to maturity, have followed in the footsteps of their royal parents. By his marriage with Alexandra of Denmark, the Prince of Wales has given to the queen another daughter, and to England another noble princess, who, by her beauty and goodness, has firmly established herself in the affections of the nation, and proved herself a worthy mother of Britain's future sovereigns.

5. By the sudden death of the Prince Consort in 1861, the queen suffered an irreparable loss, being deprived at one blow of an affectionate husband, a pleasant companion, and a prudent counsellor. For a time her majesty seemed quite prostrated by this terrible bereavement. If anything could lighten this great burden of sorrow, it was the tokens of respectful sympathy evinced by all classes of her subjects.

6. As her grief abated, the queen seemed to take a melancholy delight in recalling the happy incidents of her married life. To this feeling her people are indebted for a most interesting book from the royal pen, entitled, *Leaves from the Journal of our Life in*

*the Highlands.* In this book many incidents of the royal sojourn in the Highlands are graphically depicted, and we have laid bare before us the inner life of the royal household, divested of all state formalities. The queen still spends a portion of every year at the royal castle of Balmoral in the Highlands.



Windsor Castle.

Her English residences are Windsor Castle, and Osborne House in the Isle of Wight. When she visits London, Buckingham Palace is at her disposal.

7. In her sympathy with the sufferings of her subjects, the queen has set an example far beyond all previous monarchs. No case of calamity but calls forth her kindly message and substantial aid. Wherever human agony has to be soothed, or human *needs to be provided for*, there the queen is foremost ;

and thus, by her noble example, she has done more to knit together all classes of the nation in one common brotherhood, than could have been done by a hundred acts of parliament. Her majesty's reign has already exceeded in duration nearly all those of her predecessors; and during the forty-five years she has occupied the throne, the country has made enormous progress in all that conduces to a high state of civilisation, and to the comfort and prosperity of the masses. There can be but one wish on the part of all—that the country may long go on in the paths of peace and plenty, in the ways of virtue and happiness, and that the queen may long live to see it.

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## LESSON XLIX.

### Victoria's Tears.

[On the death of William IV., some high officials of the court went to Kensington Palace to announce to the young Princess Victoria her accession to the throne. It was early morning, and the Princess was still asleep. She was called, however, to meet the messengers; when she heard that she was queen she shed tears.]

'O maiden, heir of kings,  
A king hath left his place;  
The majesty of death hath swept  
All other from his face.  
And thou upon thy mother's breast,  
No longer lean adown—  
But take the glory for the rest,  
And rule the land that loves thee best.'  
The maiden wept,  
She wept to wear a crown.

They decked her courtly halls—  
They reined her hundred steeds—  
They shouted, at her palace gate,  
‘A noble queen succeeds!’  
Her name has stirred the mountains’ sleep,  
Her praise has filled the town;  
And mourners, God had stricken deep,  
Looked hearkening up, and did not weep!  
Alone she wept,  
Who wept to wear a crown.

She saw no purple shine,  
For tears had dimmed her eyes:  
She only knew her childhood’s flowers  
Were happier pageantries!  
And while the heralds played their part,  
For million shouts to drown,  
‘God save the Queen!’ from hill to mart,  
She heard, through all, her beating heart,  
And turned and wept;  
She wept to wear a crown.

God save thee, weeping queen,  
Thou shalt be well beloved;  
The tyrant’s sceptre cannot move  
As those pure tears have moved.  
The nature in thine eye we see,  
Which tyrants cannot own,  
The love that guardeth liberties;  
Strange blessing on the nation lies,  
Whose sovereign wept,  
Yea, wept to wear a crown.

God bless thee, weeping queen,  
With blessing more divine;

And fill with better love than earth's  
That tender heart of thine ;  
That when the thrones of earth shall be  
As low as graves brought down,  
A pierced hand may give to thee  
The crown which angels shout to see !  
Thou wilt not weep  
To wear that heavenly crown !

*Mrs Browning.*

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## LESSON L.

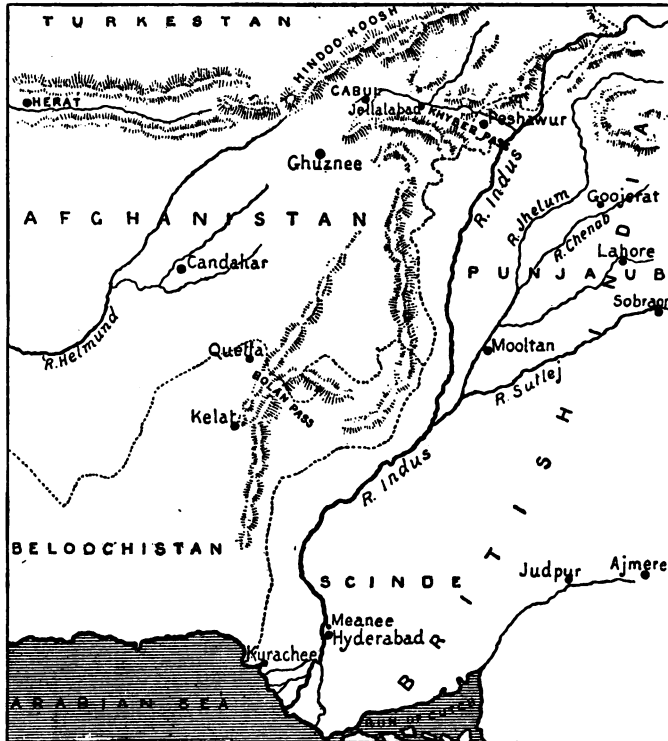
### **Wars in North-western India.**

1. Between the years 1839 and 1849, the British were engaged in a series of military enterprises in the north-west of India, which greatly tried the bravery of our soldiers, and were attended even with serious disaster. They resulted, however, in the subjugation of the territories in the basin of the Indus, and in establishing the British sway in India more firmly than ever.

2 With the view of averting certain dangers which seemed to threaten our Indian Empire in that quarter, the English invaded the rugged and mountainous country of Afghanistan. The expedition was, in the first instance, completely successful. Candahar and Cabul were both occupied by British troops, and a prince, favourable to our interests, was placed upon the throne. The main force then returned to India, leaving garrisons at Candahar and Cabul to overawe the hostile tribes.



3. The troops left behind at Cabul were destined to terrible disaster. General Elphinstone, who commanded, relying too much on the good faith of the Afghans, omitted to take the necessary measures of defence. The Afghans, under Akbar Khan, son of



the late ruler, taking advantage of this, began a system of harassing attacks; and the British general *saw*, when it was too late, the danger to which he was

exposed, cut off as he was from assistance from India. He attempted to come to terms with the enemy. The wily Afghan leader pretended to be anxious to treat with him, but at the same time was secretly planning the destruction of the whole British force. He was not long in throwing off the mask. The British envoy, being invited to a conference, was cruelly murdered, and several officers shared the same fate.

4. General Elphinstone now commenced his retreat towards Jellalabad, a town ninety miles nearer the Indian frontier, where there was a British garrison. He had not gone far when he found himself hemmed in on all sides by foes; and whichever way he looked, destruction seemed inevitable. He endeavoured to arrange once more with Akbar Khan for a safe retreat, and left behind a number of captives, among whom were several ladies, as hostages. But even if the Afghan leader possessed the will to carry out the treaty, he had no power over the fierce tribes who inhabited the hilly country along the route, and the retreating force was subject to incessant attacks in front, flank, and rear. It was the depth of winter, and the Sepoy troops, benumbed with cold, and unable to make any defence, were cut down without mercy. Of the whole force, to the number of 4500 fighting men and 12,000 camp followers, which had left Cabul, only one man reached Jellalabad in safety. All the rest had perished, or been taken captive.

5. As soon as the news of this terrible disaster reached the authorities in India, prompt steps were

taken to punish the Afghans, and rescue the prisoners who had been left in their hands. General Pollock fought his way through the Khyber Pass, and reached Jellalabad. He then pushed on to



The Khyber Pass.

Cabul, and on the way the soldiers were maddened by the sight of the skeletons of their late comrades, which lay bleaching on the hillsides along the route. They exacted a terrible vengeance wherever they met the foe, and the cowed Afghans fled in terror to their native mountains. General Nott, with the force from Candahar, united with Pollock at Cabul. The hostages were safely restored to their anxious friends; and thus, one great object of this second expedition was successfully achieved. After levelling

the fortifications of Cabul, the entire force evacuated the country.

6. Shortly afterwards, hostilities broke out with the Ameers of Scinde, a large province covering the delta of the Indus. The British commander, Sir Charles Napier, speedily proved to the enemy that the spirit of the British army had not degenerated since the days of Plassey. With a force of only 3000 men, he attacked and completely defeated two armies much superior in numbers. The result of these two victories—**Meanee and Dubba**—was the annexation of *Scinde* to the British dominions. 1843 A.D.

7. The main stream of the Indus is formed by the junction of five smaller branches. The large and fertile tract of country watered by these tributary streams is named the *Punjaub*, or the land of the 'five waters.' It was inhabited by a people called the Sikhs, who, at first a religious sect, have gradually become the bravest and fiercest warriors in India. They had a numerous army, which was rendered more formidable by a large train of artillery, and numerous squadrons of daring cavalry. After being long friendly to us, disturbances had arisen among them; the army became mutinous and demanded to be led against the English. Much severe fighting took place; at length, after a series of victories, gained mainly by the use of the bayonet, the British army pushed on to Lahore, the capital, and the Sikhs surrendered. Three years later, they again rose; but after some further sanguinary engagements, their 1845-46 A.D. 1849 A.D.

main army was routed with great slaughter by Lord Gough, in the battle of **Goojerat**, and the territory of the Punjab was thereupon added to our Indian Empire.

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## LESSON LI

### **Repeal of the Corn-Laws—Free-Trade, 1846 A.D.**

1. The most important political achievement during the early years of Queen Victoria's reign was the Repeal of the Corn-laws. At the close of the war with Napoleon, when foreign ports were once more opened, and when rents were falling, it was thought necessary to protect British agriculture by imposing a heavy tax upon corn from abroad. In 1815, accordingly, an act was passed to prohibit the importation of corn until the average price of wheat should reach eighty shillings a quarter. In 1828, a modified bill was passed which enacted that every shipload of grain brought into the country from abroad should be subject to an import duty arranged according to what was termed a 'sliding-scale.' By this scale, when the price of corn was high, the duty was low; and when the price of grain fell, the duty upon it made a corresponding rise.

2. When our own harvests were plentiful, no hardship was felt from measures like these. But when a scarcity occurred, owing to a failure of the crops, the increased price of bread was severely felt by the working-classes. The population of the country *was rapidly* increasing; and as there were now more

mouths to fill, it became a question of vital importance to provide a cheap and plentiful supply of bread to fill them. Hence a resolute opposition to the corn-laws soon began to make itself felt in the country. The nation was divided into two parties, those who advocated protection for our corn being termed 'Protectionists,' and those who wished to abolish the corn duties receiving the name of 'Free-traders.'

3. In the year 1839, an Anti-Corn-Law League was formed for the purpose of disseminating free-trade doctrines. It had its headquarters at Manchester, the centre of the cotton-manufacturing industry. There being no building at that time large enough to hold the meetings, a temporary wooden structure was erected, the site of which is marked by the existing Free-Trade Hall. The guiding spirit of the league was Richard Cobden, a cotton manufacturer, who threw himself heart and soul into the cause; and by his homely and unadorned eloquence, and the convincing nature of his arguments, produced a great impression both in parliament and the country. He was assisted by many other able men, the chief of whom was the great orator, John Bright. Branches of the league were soon established in all the towns of the kingdom, and a paid body of lecturers was employed to carry on the agitation, which gradually drew into its ranks many men of ability and influence.

4. During these eventful years, the Conservative party was in power, with Sir Robert Peel as Prime Minister. Sir Robert Peel was a statesman of great

financial ability, and had already taken the duty off many raw materials used in manufactures. He had also greatly modified the sliding-scale duties upon imported grain; but he had not as yet seen his way to a complete repeal. In parliament, the free-traders had made several attempts to give effect to their views, but the protectionists had been too strong for them. Indeed, Peel's financial schemes, by removing many of the shackles which had fettered native industry, had given a great impetus to the trade and manufactures of the country; and at the beginning of the year 1845, the nation was in a state of prosperity and contentment, which afforded but small hope to the repealers that they would be able to carry their scheme for some years to come.

5. Before the end of the year, however, circumstances occurred which changed the aspect of things. There was a failure in the harvest, both the corn and potato crops being blighted. The condition of affairs in this country was bad enough; but in Ireland it was still worse, the population there being reduced almost to a state of famine. The result was that the demand for free-trade waxed stronger and stronger, and before the year was out, the League had the satisfaction of gaining over to its ranks no less a person than Sir Robert Peel himself. Accordingly, the next year a measure for the repeal of the corn-laws was introduced into parliament by the Prime Minister; and, in spite of the opposition of the protectionists, it passed both Houses by large majorities. At the close of the debates, Sir Robert Peel frankly acknowledged that the honour of pass-

ing this great measure was due, not to himself, but to Richard Cobden.

6. The corn-laws formed the main pillar of the system of protection, and in a short time, free-trade became the guiding principle of British commercial enterprise.

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## LESSON LII.

### **Sir Robert Peel.**

BORN 1788; DIED 1850.

1. This eminent statesman was the son of a wealthy English cotton manufacturer, and from the day of his birth was destined for a political career. His father was an enthusiastic member of the Tory party, and as soon as the child could speak at all, he was taught to lisp the name of Pitt. He was educated first at Harrow School, where he sat on the same form as Byron, the poet; and afterwards at the university of Oxford, where he greatly distinguished himself by obtaining a first class both in classics and mathematics.

2. In accordance with his father's wishes, Peel passed at once from Oxford to parliament, at the age of twenty-one. Though he did not make himself a name all at once like Pitt or Fox, he possessed qualities which were bound to make their mark. After ably serving in some subordinate posts, he was appointed in 1821 to the important office of Secretary of State for the Home Department.

3. Peel made a most useful and indefatigable Home



Secretary. He brought in several most valuable measures for revising the entire penal system, and greatly simplified and humanised the laws relating to prison discipline, transportation, the police force, and punishment by death. When the Duke of Wellington became Prime Minister in 1828, Peel became the leader of the House of Commons. In the following year, as we have seen, the Catholic Relief Bill was passed.

4. Like the Duke of Wellington, Sir Robert Peel was opposed to the Reform Bill of 1832. As leader of the opposition in succeeding parliaments, Peel acted with much tact and circumspection, and the Tories—or as they were now more frequently called, the Conservatives—gradually regained the influence in the country which they had lost by their opposition to the Reform Bill. The general election of 1841 gave them a great majority in parliament, and Peel, who had been at the head of the government for a few months in 1834–35, again became Prime Minister.

5. During the latter years of the previous administration, the finances of the country had got into a most unsatisfactory state, the revenue being insufficient to meet the expenditure. Sir Robert Peel devoted his great financial abilities to a readjustment of taxation, and, as we have already seen, his measures proved most successful. He imposed an income-tax; but, by applying the money thus raised to a remission of obnoxious duties upon imports, he gave great encouragement to all branches of industry.

6. As has been already stated, Peel's greatest

achievement, and that for which he is most held in honour by posterity, was the repeal of the corn-laws. At the time, however, it made him very unpopular with his own party, who considered they had been betrayed by the leader whom they had implicitly trusted.

7. After this Peel did not long remain Prime Minister. He bore his retirement with great dignity, and firmly refused any honours or emolu-



Westminster Abbey.

ments either for himself or his family. Four years afterwards, he was thrown from his horse while riding in Hyde Park, and the injuries he received caused his death in a few days.

8. It was now felt by the country that a great statesman had passed away, and men of all opinions united to do honour to his memory. A monument was erected to him in Westminster Abbey, and this example was followed by many of the large towns of the kingdom. At the suggestion of Richard Cobden, the concluding words of the speech in which he announced his retirement from office, have been inscribed upon the pedestal of his monument: 'It may be that I shall leave a name sometimes remembered with expressions of good-will in the abodes of those whose lot it is to labour, and to earn their daily bread by the sweat of their brow, when they shall recruit their exhausted strength with abundant and untaxed food, the sweeter because it is no longer leavened with a sense of injustice.'

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## LESSON LIII

### **The Loss of the 'Birkenhead':**

SUPPOSED TO BE TOLD BY A SOLDIER WHO SURVIVED.

[The troop-ship, the *Birkenhead*, carrying about five hundred soldiers, was wrecked on a rock off the Cape of Good Hope (26th February 1852). While the women and children were being taken ashore, the officers and soldiers calmly ranged themselves on deck in military order, no man quitting the ranks or attempting to save himself till the water broke over them. About three hundred and fifty men and officers were drowned.]

Right on our flank the crimson sun went down ;  
The deep sea rolled around in dark repose ;  
When, like the wild shriek from some captured town,  
A cry of women rose.

The stout ship *Birkenhead* lay hard and fast,  
Caught without hope upon a hidden rock ;  
Her timbers thrilled as nerves, when through them passed  
The spirit of that shock.

And ever like base cowards, who leave their ranks  
In danger's hour, before the rush of steel,  
Drifted away disorderly the planks  
From underneath her keel.

So calm the air, so calm and still the flood,  
That low down in its blue translucent glass  
We saw the great fierce fish, that thirst for blood,  
Pass slowly, then repass.

They tarried, the waves tarried for their prey !  
The sea turned one clear smile ! Like things asleep  
Those dark shapes in the azure silence lay,  
As quiet as the deep.

Then amidst oath, and prayer, and rush, and wreck,  
Faint screams, faint questions waiting no reply,  
Our colonel gave the word, and on the deck  
Formed us in line to die.

To die ! 'twas hard, while the sleek ocean glowed  
Beneath a sky as fair as summer flowers :  
'All to the boats !' cried one : he was, thank God,  
No officer of ours !

Our English hearts beat true : we would not stir :  
That base appeal we heard, but heeded not :  
On land, on sea, we had our colours, sir,  
To keep without a spot !

They shall not say in England, that we fought  
With shameful strength, unhonoured life to seek ;  
Into mean safety, mean deserters, brought  
By trampling down the weak.

So we made women with their children go,  
The oars ply back again, and yet again ;  
Whilst, inch by inch, the drowning ship sank low,  
Still under steadfast men.

What follows, why recall ?—The brave who died,  
Died without finching in the bloody surf,  
They sleep as well beneath that purple tide,  
As others under turf :

They sleep as well ! and, roused from their wild grave,  
Wearing their wounds like stars, shall rise again,  
Joint-heirs with Christ, because they bled to save  
His weak ones, not in vain.

*Sir F. H. Doyle.*

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## LESSON LIV.

### **The Duke of Wellington.**

BORN 1769 ; DIED 1852.

1. The same year, 1769, saw the birth of the two greatest generals of modern times. The one was Napoleon Bonaparte ; the other Arthur Wellesley, afterwards Duke of Wellington. The career of Wellington, however, presents a marked contrast to that of his rival. Through the exercise of indefatigable perseverance and energy, he rose step by step *to fame* ; he lived to a green old age, enjoying the

solid respect of his countrymen; and at last was followed to an honoured grave by the regrets of all.

2. Arthur Wellesley was born in Ireland, and was the fourth son of the Earl of Mornington. When old enough he was sent to Eton school; but he was not fond of books, and at that time seems to have been regarded as the dunce of the family. Being destined for the army, he was sent to complete his education at a military school in France. After his return home, a commission was obtained for him; and as early as 1791, he became colonel of the 33d Regiment, which he speedily brought to a high state of discipline.

3. In the year 1797, he sailed for India. Shortly after his arrival, he assisted in the reduction of Seringapatam, of which place he was made governor, and at the same time was raised to the rank of major-general. In this capacity, he distinguished himself greatly by clearing the Deccan of the fierce Mahratta tribes, which were threatening our Indian dominions. As a military achievement, the victory of **Assaye** rivalled Clive's exploit at Plassey. 1803 A.D.

Even thus early in his career, Wellesley was noted for the careful and methodical way in which he made his preparations, and for the minuteness with which he looked into everything which affected the welfare of his troops.

4. When the British Government resolved to assist Spain and Portugal to free themselves from the French yoke, Wellesley was put 1808 A.D. in command of the first military expedition sent out to the Peninsula. In the battle of **Vimiera**, he gave

the French the first taste of his quality by inflicting upon them a severe defeat; but being superseded in command of the army by men who were only his superiors in military rank and seniority, he returned to England. Upon the death of Sir John Moore, however, he was again put in chief command, and then all his wonderful powers were called into full play. During six campaigns he contended against



Wellington.

the most renowned marshals of France, who were placed in command of armies much superior in numbers to his own; but his matchless forethought and perseverance enabled him to cope successfully with these odds. He both out-fought and out-generalled all his antagonists; and at length, after a

struggle which lasted five years, he cleared Spain of her oppressors, and as we have already seen, drove them before him across the Pyrenees.

5. On returning to England, after an absence of five years, the victorious general was received with acclamations, and raised to the rank of Duke. But the struggle was not yet quite over. The final conflict had yet to be fought; the last victory won. On the memorable field of Waterloo, Wellington completed his triumphant career, by inflicting a crushing defeat upon Napoleon, from whose ambitious designs Europe was at length set free.

6. Though the military career of Wellington ended at Waterloo, as a statesman he was long spared faithfully to serve his country. In regard to Catholic Emancipation, Parliamentary Reform, and other important measures, he was opposed to the mass of the nation; but his high sense of duty in all he did was above suspicion. He died as Warden of the Cinque Ports in 1852, and his tomb which, along with that of Nelson, is in St Paul's Cathedral, London, is annually visited by thousands of people from all parts of the globe.

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## LESSON LV.

### **The Warden of the Cinque Ports.**

A mist was driving down the British Channel,  
The day was just begun,  
And through the window-panes, on floor and panel,  
Streamed the red autumn sun.



It glanced on flowing flag and rippling pennon,  
And the white sails of ships ;  
And, from the frowning rampart, the black cannon  
Hailed it with feverish lips.

Sandwich and Romney, Hastings, Hythe, and Dover  
Were all alert that day,  
To see the French war-steamers speeding over,  
When the fog cleared away.

Sullen and silent, and like couchant lions,  
Their cannon, through the night,  
Holding their breath, had watched, in grim defiance,  
The sea-coast opposite.

And now they roared at drum-beat from their stations  
On every citadel ;  
Each answering each, with morning salutations,  
That all was well.

And down the coast, all taking up the burden,  
Replied the distant forts,  
As if to summon from his sleep the Warden  
And Lord of the Cinque Ports.

Him shall no sunshine from the fields of azure,  
No drum-beat from the wall,  
No morning gun from the black fort's embrasure,  
Awaken with its call !

No more, surveying with an eye impartial  
The long line of the coast,  
Shall the gaunt figure of the old Field-Marshal  
*Be seen upon his post !*

For in the night, unseen, a single warrior,  
 In sombre harness mailed,  
 Dreaded of man, and surnamed the Destroyer,  
 The rampart wall has scaled.

He passed into the chamber of the sleeper,  
 The dark and silent room ;  
 And as he entered, darker grew, and deeper,  
 The silence and the gloom.

He did not pause to parley or dissemble,  
 But smote the Warden hoar ;  
 Ah ! what a blow ! that made all England tremble,  
 And groan from shore to shore.

Meanwhile, without, the surly cannon waited,  
 The sun rose bright o'erhead ;  
 Nothing in Nature's aspect intimated  
 That a great man was dead.

*Longfellow.*

**Sandwich and Romney, &c.** These are the five ports which from ancient times have been called the Cinque Ports, *cinque* being the French word for *five*.

**French war-steamers.** During the year 1852, there were rumours of a French invasion, caused chiefly by the accession of the Third Napoleon to power in France. With the help of war-steamers it was thought an invasion could be more easily accomplished.



Dover.

## LESSON LVI

**The Crimean War, 1854—1855 A.D.**

1. For a long time the Turkish Empire has been gradually falling into decay, and the possessions of the Turk—the ‘sick man,’ as he has been aptly termed—have excited the greed of neighbouring countries. Russia especially, has made several attempts to put an end to the ‘sick man’ by violent means, and seize upon his rich inheritance.

2. The year 1853 seemed to the Czar Nicholas to be a favourable time for accomplishing his designs against Turkey. England and France both vigorously remonstrated against the proceedings of the Czar; but believing that neither of them would fight, he commanded his armies to cross the Pruth into Turkish territory. By this step the ‘dogs of war’ were once more slipped in Europe, after a peace of forty years’ duration. The Russian forces pushed on for the Danube, doubtless expecting to cross that river and take possession of the long-wished-for prize of Constantinople, before the western powers had made up their minds whether to fight or not. To their disappointment, however, the Russians met with a most stubborn resistance from the Turks, utterly failing to take the fortress of Silistria, where the besieged were encouraged and directed by some British officers.

3. *Meanwhile, the queen of Great Britain and the*

emperor of France had both declared war against Russia. Before long, the magnificent fleets of England were scouring the Baltic and the Black Sea, chasing and capturing every Russian vessel which dared to venture out, bombarding the fortresses, and blockading the seaports. Two armies also were sent out to the assistance of Turkey; the British force being commanded by Lord Raglan, and the French by Marshal St Arnaud.

March  
1854 A.D.

4. The Turks having repulsed the Russian armies on the Danube, the allies resolved to invade the peninsula of the Crimea, and make an assault upon the Russian fortress of Sebastopol. The existence of this great fortress and arsenal was a standing menace to Turkey; and to effect its demolition seemed the likeliest means of humbling Russia, and bringing the war to a close. Accordingly, a landing of the allied forces—



British, French, and Turkish—to the number of 54,000 men, was made on the Crimea, at Eupatoria, no opposition being offered by the enemy. The army then set forward along the coast toward the Russian stronghold, the fleet accompanying it by sea.

In order to bar the progress of the allied forces, the Russian army of the Crimea was strongly posted on a ridge of heights, with the small stream of the **Alma** in front. After a severe struggle, the heights were gallantly stormed, and the Russians retreated towards Sebastopol.

20th Sept.  
1854 A.D.

5. The allied armies now laid siege to Sebastopol. It went on for a year, during which the invaders were exposed to strange vicissitudes from the assaults of the foe, and the severity of the climate during the winter months. Before the year was out, also, both Lord Raglan and the French general died, and their places were taken by others. Nor did the Czar Nicholas live to witness the result of the war which he had commenced. His son, Alexander, made no change, however, but trod in the footsteps of his sire.

6. In the early days of the siege, and before the allies had got reinforcements from home, the Russians made several formidable attacks upon the camp. Their first attempt was directed against the English lines, with the design of capturing the port of

25th Oct.  
1854 A.D.

**Balaklava.** They were gallantly repulsed, however, chiefly by Sir Colin Campbell with his Highlanders, who firmly stood their ground against the charge of the Russian horse. The British cavalry, advancing to the assistance of the infantry, cut through the masses of their opponents as if they had been men of straw. It was in this battle that the famous *Charge of the Light Brigade* took place, when, owing

to some misunderstanding on the part of the commanders, six hundred of our light horsemen, entirely unsupported, rode at full gallop upon the Russian batteries. It was a brilliant but disastrous feat; in the space of a few minutes, four hundred of the gallant men were uselessly sacrificed.

7. Shortly afterwards occurred the desperate fight of **Inkermann**, where about eight thousand British troops bravely stood their ground for hours against forty thousand Russians. Upon their ammunition running short, some of our brave men, rather than retreat, hurled volleys of stones at the foe. Ultimately, a strong body of the French came to their aid, and the Russians were driven from the field.

5th Nov.  
1854 A.D.

8. Not long after this encounter, the besiegers met with a disaster which did them more harm than all the assaults of the Russian hordes. A terrific storm swept across the Black Sea and the Crimea. A great number of the vessels in Balaklava harbour perished, and there was an immense loss of stores of all kinds intended for the troops. The hurricane also produced the most dreadful consequences on land. Tents were blown down, fires extinguished, and food and cooking utensils destroyed. The poor soldiers, drenched to the skin, and without so much as a dry blanket to wrap round them, had to pass the dreary night as best they could upon the soft wet ground. For some time afterwards, there was a great scarcity of food and clothing, and other necessities, and much suffering was endured during the long dreary

14th Nov.  
1854 A.D.

winter. When tidings of these misfortunes reached England, there was much indignation against the government, and especially against the officials who had charge of the commissariat arrangements. The Prime Minister, the Earl of Aberdeen, resigned, and was succeeded by Lord Palmerston. Vigorous steps were now taken to provide for the comfort of the troops, and in a short time, the camp was abundantly supplied with all requisites.

9. All through the following summer the siege operations went on. Nearer and nearer approached the trenches towards the doomed city, which, at intervals, was subjected to a terrific bombardment from hundreds of guns. The allied armies had been strongly reinforced from home, and had also been joined by a Sardinian contingent, so that the Russians no longer ventured to attack them so frequently. At length the advances of the allies were completed, and the final cannonade took place, and lasted for three days. The storming columns then carried the main forts ; and the Russians, finding that further resistance was useless, evacuated the town during the night, and the following day it was taken possession of by the combined armies. With the

30th March  
1856 A.D.

capture of Sebastopol, the war was virtually at an end, though peace was not formally declared till six months afterwards, by the *Treaty of Paris*.



## LESSON LVII.

**Florence Nightingale.**

[When the tidings came home of the sufferings of our soldiers in the East, a lady, Florence Nightingale, went out with a band of nurses to take care of the sick and wounded. By her heroic efforts in rescuing thousands from death, she earned a lasting title to the gratitude of the English people.]

Whene'er a noble deed is wrought,  
 Whene'er is spoke a noble thought,  
     Our hearts, in glad surprise,  
     To higher levels rise.

Honour to those whose words or deeds  
 Thus help us in our daily needs,  
     And by their overflow  
     Raise us from what is low !

Thus thought I, as by night I read  
 Of the great army of the dead,  
     The trenches cold and damp,  
     The starved and frozen camp—

The wounded from the battle-plain,  
 In dreary hospitals of pain,  
     The cheerless corridors,  
     The cold and stony floors.

Lo ! in that house of misery  
 A lady with a lamp I see  
     Pass through the glimmering gloom,  
     And flit from room to room.



As if a door in heaven should be  
Opened and then closed suddenly,  
The vision came and went,  
The light shone and was spent.

On England's annals, through the long  
Hereafter of her speech and song,  
That light its rays shall cast  
From portals of the past :

A lady with a lamp shall stand  
In the great history of the land,  
A noble type of good,  
Heroic womanhood.

*Longfellow.*

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## LESSON LVIII.

### **The Indian Mutiny, 1857—1858 A.D.**

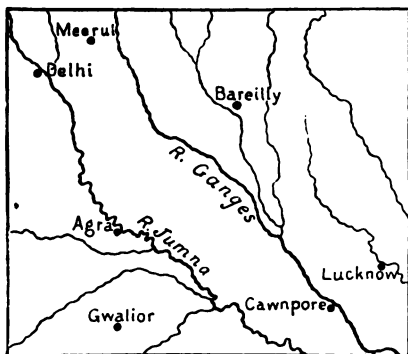
1. Exactly one hundred years after Clive had laid the foundation of our empire in India by the victory of Plassey, events occurred in that country which completely cast into the shade the tragic incident of the 'Black Hole' of Calcutta. During the century which had elapsed since the days of Clive, the British power had been extended, till nearly the whole of the magnificent peninsula, from the Himalaya Mountains to Cape Comorin, was subject to our sway. A native army had been formed, which far outnumbered the British force maintained there. The loyalty of these Sepoy troops had not hitherto been suspected; and in fact, they had frequently *given* proofs of their fidelity in the frontier wars.

2. Unsuspected by the officers, a spirit of disaffection had been gradually spreading among the Sepoy regiments. An impression had become prevalent among them, that the British government intended forcing them to give up their ancient faith, and become Christians. Just about this time, the new Enfield rifle was distributed among them in place of the old 'brown Bess.' The cartridges intended for this weapon were greased; and as the ends of them had to be bitten off before use, the suspicious Sepoys fancied the fat of the cow—an animal they had been taught to consider sacred—had been purposely used in order to degrade them, and make them lose *caste*.

3. The fanaticism and latent ferocity of the Sepoys was now thoroughly roused, and a general mutiny took place. It commenced at **Meerut**, where the native troops rose against their officers, and put them to death, and then took possession of the ancient city of **Delhi**, which remained in their hands for some months. The rebellion quickly spread to other towns, and for a short time a great portion of the north and centre of India was in the power of the rebels. Wherever they got the upper hand, they were guilty of the most ferocious deeds of cruelty upon the Europeans. The British troops, which were stationed in different places, offered the most heroic resistance to the rebels, and the mutiny was at length suppressed.

4. Of all the incidents of that terrible year, two stand out in bold relief, on account of the thrilling interest attaching to them. These are, the **Massacre of Cawnpore**, and the **Relief of Lucknow**. Cawn-

pore, which was in the heart of the disaffected area, contained about a thousand Europeans, of whom two-thirds were women and children. The defensive post into which they had thrown themselves at the beginning of the outbreak, was speedily surrounded by an overwhelming number of the mutineers, led on



by the infamous Nana Sahib. The few defenders held out bravely for a time, but at last surrendered on a promise of being allowed to depart in safety. The Sepoys accompanied them to the river-side,

but as soon as the men were on board the boats, a murderous fire was opened upon them, and only one man escaped. The women and children, being reserved for a still more cruel fate, were carried back to Cawnpore. Hearing that General Havelock was approaching with a body of troops for the relief of the place, Nana Sahib marched out to intercept him, but was driven back. Smarting under this defeat, he returned to Cawnpore, and gave directions for the instant massacre of his helpless prisoners. His orders were promptly carried out by his troops, under circumstances of the most shocking barbarity. Shortly afterwards, Havelock and his little army arrived, but only to find, to their unutterable

grief, that they were too late to rescue their unfortunate countrywomen and their children.

5. Havelock now marched to the **Relief of Lucknow**, where the British garrison, under Sir Henry Lawrence, was closely invested by thousands of the rebels. Havelock encountered the enemy over and over again on his march, and inflicted defeat upon them. Step by step, our men fought their way into the beleaguered fort at Lucknow, where, if they could not relieve their friends, they could remain and die with them. But this was not to be. Another deliverer, with a stronger force, was coming swiftly up; and very soon the ears of the anxious defenders were gladdened by the martial sounds of the bagpipes, playing 'The Campbells are coming;' and shortly afterwards, Sir Colin Campbell and his gallant Highlanders—the victors of Bala-klava—were grasping the hands of their brother veterans, who were thus at length relieved. The brave Lawrence had died from his wounds before Sir Colin arrived; and Havelock only survived a few weeks. He lived long enough, however, to see that by his heroic efforts he had upheld England's power in her darkest moment; and that her forces were now coming on with irresistible might, to complete the work which he had so gallantly begun.

6. The power of the rebels in that quarter was now broken. In Central India, Sir Hugh Rose had been equally successful; and the heroic performances of the British troops in suppressing the revolt, cannot be better described than in the words of this general, in addressing his

soldiers after the triumph was achieved: 'Soldiers, you have marched more than a thousand miles, and taken more than a hundred guns; you have forced your way through mountain-passes and intricate jungles, and over rivers; you have captured the strongest forts, and beat the enemy, no matter what the odds, wherever you met them; you have restored extensive districts to the government; and peace and order now reign, where before, for twelve months, were tyranny and rebellion.'

7. This rebellion led to an alteration in the government of India. The old East India Company was abolished, and its power transferred to the Crown, which is represented in parliament by a Secretary of State, and in India by a Viceroy. More recently the queen has received the title of Empress of India.

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## LESSON LIX.

### **The British Soldier in China.**

[During the war with China in 1860, Moyses, a private soldier of the Buffs (a Kentish regiment), was taken prisoner. When called upon to make the usual servile obeisance before the Chinese authorities, Moyses steadfastly refused. For this refusal to degrade himself and his country, he was put to death. At that time Lord Elgin was our ambassador in China.]

Last night among his fellow-roughs

He jested, quaffed, and swore:

A drunken private of the Buffs,

Who never looked before.

To-day, beneath the foeman's frown,

He stands in Elgin's place,

Ambassador from Britain's crown,

And type of all her race.

Poor, reckless, rude, low-born, untaught,  
Bewildered, and alone,  
A heart with English instinct fraught,  
He yet can call his own.

Ay! tear his body limb from limb,  
Bring cord, or axe, or flame!  
He only knows that not through him  
Shall England come to shame.

Far Kentish hop-fields round him seemed  
Like dreams to come and go;  
Bright leagues of cherry-blossom gleamed,  
One sheet of living snow:  
The smoke above his father's door  
In gray, soft eddyings hung:  
Must he, then, watch it rise no more,  
Doomed by himself, so young?

Yes, Honour calls! with strength like steel  
He put the vision by:  
Let dusky Indians whine and kneel;  
An English lad must die!  
And thus with eyes that would not shrink,  
With knee to man unbent,  
Unflinching on its dreadful brink,  
To his red grave he went.

Vain, mightiest fleets of iron framed;  
Vain, those all-shattering guns;  
Unless proud England keep untamed  
The strong heart of her sons!  
So, let his name through Europe ring—  
A man of mean estate,  
Who died as firm as Sparta's king,  
Because his soul was great.

*Sir F. H. Doyle.*

## LESSON LX.

**The Second Reform Bill, 1867 A.D.**

1. As the Reform Bill of 1832 excluded the great bulk of the working-classes from the franchise, it was felt by many that it could not be a final measure; and no long time had passed before agitation for further reform had commenced.

2. In the year 1854, the veteran Lord John Russell once more brought the subject before the House of Commons; but the attention of the country at that time was centred on the war with Russia, and consequently, Lord Russell's proposals were regarded as inopportune. Again, in 1859, the cabinet of Earl Derby brought forward a scheme; but it was not considered satisfactory, and it led to the defeat and resignation of the ministers. In the year 1866, Earl Russell was once more at the head of affairs; and it seemed at one time that the aged statesman was to be instrumental in giving the country a second Reform Bill. After many debates, however, Lord Russell's scheme was rejected, and he resigned.

3. The Earl of Derby next became Premier, with Mr Disraeli as leader of the House of Commons. These statesmen succeeded at length in finding a satisfactory basis for settling the vexed question; and the result was the measure which is in operation at the present day. The vital principle of the new bill was the conferring the privilege of voting upon all *householders* in boroughs who paid poor-rates, quite

irrespective of the amount of rent. A lodger qualification of £10 a year was also introduced. In the counties all who paid a rent of not less than £12 were entitled to a vote.



House of Commons.

4. Generally speaking, it may be said that previous to 1832 the upper-classes controlled the representation; the first Reform Bill gave the franchise to the middle-classes; while the second



conferred it on a large section of the working-classes.

5. Such was the Reform Bill of 1867, which has made important changes in our system of election. One of the most gratifying features of this and other reforms which we have effected, is the fact that they have been accomplished by peaceful legislation. While in France and most other European countries, changes in government have been accompanied by revolution and civil war, we have been able to improve our institutions without disturbance and without bloodshed.

6. It should be remembered, however, that if the extension of the franchise to the mass of the people has increased their power, it has also greatly added to their responsibilities. The right to vote at elections gives the man who exercises it a share in the government of the country; and upon each man so voting, it depends whether our country is well or ill governed. To whatever party he belong, it should be his first care to give his vote in an honest and intelligent spirit.

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## LESSON LXI.

### **The Education Act, 1870 A.D.**

1. Of all the great measures for the benefit of the working-classes which have been passed during the present century, none deserves a higher place than the Education Bill of 1870. Provision had already *been made*, with no stinted hand, for the material

wants of the masses. Their food had been cheapened; the conditions under which they performed their daily toil in the factory or the mine, had been ameliorated; and their social comforts greatly increased. In all these respects their lot compared favourably with that of continental nations. But in the matter of education, they were still far behind some of their neighbours, and especially the Germans.

2. For thirty or forty years previous to the passing of the Education Act, a great deal had been done by voluntary effort towards supplying the educational needs of the people. The National Society, and the British and Foreign Society, by building schools and training teachers, had done much towards coping with the deficiencies. Parliament also had lent its aid, by voting an annual grant towards the expenses of the existing schools. But the population was increasing so rapidly that, in spite of these efforts, there was still a terrible amount of educational destitution, which voluntary zeal could not reach. After all that had been done, it was calculated that there yet remained two-thirds of the juvenile population of the country totally unprovided for. An inquiry into the condition of elementary education in some of the large towns showed woful results. In Birmingham, out of a population of 83,000 children of school age, only 26,000 were actually under instruction; Leeds showed a proportion of 58,000 to 19,000; and so on with other towns.

3. These statistics startled men of all parties; and it was felt that not a moment more ought to be lost in providing for the great educational destitution which

had been shown to exist. Accordingly, Mr Forster, the Vice-president of the Council, a statesman whose name will be honourably handed down to posterity in connection with this great question, introduced his famous scheme for grappling with the difficulty. Like all great measures, it was noted for its simplicity. It laid down, in the first place, the great principle that 'there should be efficient school provision in every district of England where it was wanted; and that every child in the country should have the means of education placed within its reach.' To carry this principle into effect, it appointed boards of management, or school-boards, to be elected at intervals of three years by the ratepayers themselves. The chief duties of these boards were defined to be, the erection of schools in all localities where sufficient provision did not already exist; and the framing of bye-laws, which should have the effect of compelling attendance at school in cases where the parents showed themselves indifferent to the welfare of their children. These were the main features of the bill, which met with the general acceptance of parliament, and speedily became the law of the land.

4. Since the passing of the Education Act, the results achieved by it have been most gratifying. The number of children attending school has enormously increased; the quality of the instruction has been greatly raised; and in districts which were formerly neglected, handsome and commodious school buildings have been erected *and fitted up* in the most approved manner.

## LESSON LXII

**Recent Events.**

1. The period since the passing of the second Reform Bill has been marked by many great events both at home and abroad. At home, as we have seen, one of the most important was the passing of the Education Act. The most serious question before the country was the condition of Ireland. In 1869, the Protestant Church in Ireland was disestablished; and in the following year a *Land Bill* was passed, the object of which was to render the Irish tenants less liable to capricious eviction, and to grant them compensation for any improvements they had made in their farms. The same statesman, Mr Forster, who conducted the Education Bill so successfully through parliament, was intrusted two years later with the charge of the *Ballot Act*. The passing of this **1872 A.D.** measure enabled voters in parliamentary and municipal elections to record their votes secretly, and thus tended to discourage bribery and intimidation. It also abolished the public nomination of candidates on the hustings, and thus put an end to the scenes of disorder and tumult which so frequently occurred on those exciting occasions. All these important measures were passed during the administration of Mr Gladstone, who was in office from 1868 to 1874.

2. Under the administration of Mr Disraeli, who now succeeded to power, foreign topics had the chief

place in public attention. Of these the most important was the *Eastern Question*. Cruel atrocities having been committed on the Christian natives of Bulgaria, which the Turkish Government did not suppress, the Russians made this a pretext for invading Turkey; they defeated the Turkish armies, and advanced to the neighbourhood of Constantinople. At one time it appeared not unlikely that we should be involved in another conflict for the defence of the Turkish Empire. But by the

1878 A.D. *Treaty of Berlin*, Eastern affairs were at length arranged without our having taken any active part in the war.

3. About the same time, the **Second Afghan War** took place. It was very similar in its causes and

1878 A.D. some of its results to the First Afghan War, of which we have had an account; though, fortunately, there was no such terrible disaster as happened to our forces on the first occasion. The most remarkable military feat which occurred during the war, was the relief of the garrison of Candahar by General Roberts, who marched from Cabul, a distance of 300 miles over a sterile country, in three weeks. The British forces have since been recalled both from Cabul and Candahar.

4. The **Zulu War** also occurred about this period. The British colony of Natal had a troublesome and threatening neighbour on its northern

1879 A.D. frontier, in the person of Cetewayo, the king of the Zulus. This monarch possessed a wonderful influence among his subjects, his *system* of government being to make every man

a trained warrior. Cetewayo had assumed a threatening attitude towards the colony; an invasion of his territory was therefore decided upon, in order to reduce him to submission. A terrible disaster befel a portion of our forces at the outset, the camp at **Isandula** being captured by an overwhelming force of Zulus, and nearly every man in it put to death. After this terrible event, greater precautions were taken by the British commander, Lord Chelmsford, and the victory of **Ulundi** at length broke the power of Cetewayo, who was captured and sent prisoner to the Cape. The dethroned king afterwards paid a visit to England, prior to his restoration to his own land.

5. In 1880, Mr Gladstone once more became Premier; and under his administration Irish affairs again claimed much of the attention of the country. Notwithstanding the legislation of ten years before, a new agitation sprang up in 1880 by a body known as the Land League, the object of which was to gain the soil of Ireland for the people. With the view to appeasing discontent in Ireland, the government carried a new measure of *Land Reform*; and for the repression of the crime with which the Irish 1881 A.D. agitation has been accompanied, they introduced stringent measures of coercion. It must be the fervent wish of all true patriots, that this remedial legislation may have the effect of ameliorating the condition of the country; and that the Ireland of the future may be peaceful, prosperous, and happy.

6. The autumn of 1882 was marked by a *Military*

*Expedition to Egypt*, for the purpose of suppressing an insurrectionary rising under a chief named Arabi, and of protecting the great water-way of the Suez Canal. At the commencement of the operations our ironclads demolished the forts of Alexandria. The land operations were conducted by Sir Garnet Wolseley, with his usual skill and good-fortune. Making the Suez Canal his base, Sir Garnet pressed on along the banks of the Fresh-water Canal, till he reached Arabi's intrenched position at **Tel-el-Kebir**. The British carried these lines with a rush, and in a few minutes Arabi's deluded followers were irretrievably scattered. Thereafter the victors entered Cairo in triumph, and restored the Khedive to the throne of which he had been temporarily deprived.

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## LESSON LXIII.

### **Progress of the Nation, 1820—1882 A.D.**

1. The progress of the nation during the past sixty years has been greater than in any of the preceding periods. There have been no long wars, and the country has thus been at liberty to devote all its energies to the cultivation of the arts of peace; and in this domain, victories more signal have been achieved than ever were gained on the battlefield—triumphs of mind over matter.

2. At the commencement of this period, as we have already seen, the railway system was only in its infancy. At the present day, the country is covered from end to end with a complete network

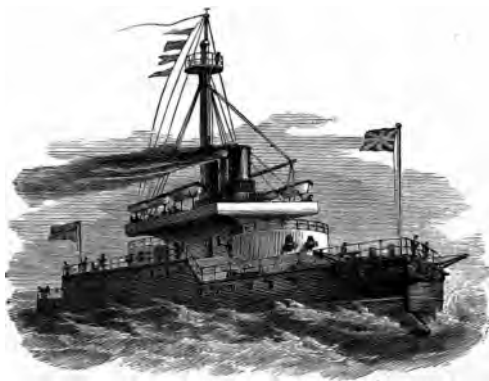
of railways, and both persons and goods are conveyed from place to place with extraordinary rapidity—a journey which, in the old times of stage-coaches, took two or three weeks, being now accomplished in a few hours. The perfection of the railway system has afforded facilities for a wonderfully complete system of postage—the mails being carried to all parts of the kingdom in one night. The rapidity of conveyance is only rivalled by the cheapness to the public, the penny postage scheme developed by Sir Rowland Hill, and adopted in 1840, having conferred untold benefits upon the community. Even more wonderful than the railway is the electric telegraph system, which has, so to speak, annihilated distance. By its means, a message of twenty words can be transmitted from one end of the kingdom to the other in a few minutes, at the cost of a shilling. Even the ocean forms no barrier to the operations of this marvellous agency. By means of submarine cables Britain is linked with far-distant lands, and is at once made acquainted with all that transpires there.

3. Owing to the wonderful progress of mechanical contrivances, and the general use of steam-power, enormous strides have been made in all branches of industry. By means of the improvements introduced into our agricultural operations, the farmer is enabled to get through his sowing and reaping processes more expeditiously, and thus the produce of the land has vastly increased; by the employment of machinery, all branches of our manufactures have been brought to a wonderful state of perfection, and much of



the labour formerly done by hand is now executed by steam-power with marvellous rapidity and precision. In commerce, the old system of navigation by means of sailing-vessels is rapidly being superseded by the marine engine, and magnificent steamers now traverse the ocean in all directions with the greatest regularity.

4. Modern invention, also, has completely revolutionised military and naval warfare. The artillery and small-arms of to-day are as superior, both in range and precision, to those used on the field of



*The Devastation*—Iron-plated Ship of War.

Waterloo, as the 'brown Bess' of that time was superior to the 'bows and bills' of the middle ages; while the old line-of-battle ships which Nelson led to victory have given place to huge iron-plated monsters, propelled by steam, and carrying guns of *so large a calibre*, that any one of the ships would

have proved a match for the united fleets of England and France at Trafalgar.

5. But not alone in material prosperity has the country made remarkable advances during this period. Political freedom has been given to the masses, and many wise laws have been passed for improving their social condition. Education has become more widely diffused, and a cheap press has brought information on all subjects within the reach of the humblest. Our literature has been enriched by the contributions of a host of brilliant writers—Macaulay and Carlyle, the historians; Dickens, Thackeray, Lytton, and George Eliot, the novelists; and by many others still living, in all departments of knowledge.

6. The blessings of progress have not been confined to Britain alone. The magnificent colonies, in which her children have established a new home, have abundantly shared in them. Of all the British possessions, Australia and New Zealand have developed most rapidly during this period. But the progress of the Dominion of Canada is now scarcely less wonderful, and our colonies in South Africa have also greatly improved. The efforts of our brave explorers—of Livingstone, Stanley, Speke, Grant, and others—have greatly extended our knowledge of Central Africa, which bids fair in the future to form a new field for British enterprise.



## LESSON LXIV.

**Condition of the People, 1820—1882 A.D.**

1. The population of the country has more than doubled during this period. The chief increase has taken place in the metropolis, the manufacturing towns of the north, the great mining districts, the chief seaports, and in the fashionable watering-places which have sprung up all round the coast.

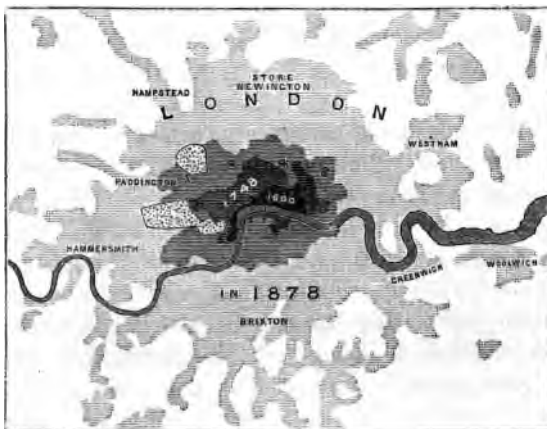


Diagram illustrating the growth of London from 1600 to 1878.

London has increased enormously in size, and now contains as many inhabitants, perhaps, as the whole of England in the reign of Elizabeth.

2. *Notwithstanding this great increase, the people now have better homes, better food, and better*

clothing, than they had sixty years ago. This is owing to the great progress made by the nation during the period. A great improvement has taken place in the dwellings of the people, both as regards construction and sanitary arrangements; although, in this latter respect, there is still much to be done. The home of a working-man is much more comfortable than that of a powerful baron of the olden times. Pauperism has greatly diminished, and the indigent poor are well and systematically cared for. The fatal epidemics which used to be of frequent occurrence fifty years ago, and even later, have almost entirely disappeared, owing to the greater sanitary precautions, and to the better understanding of the laws of health by the people themselves.

3. It has been calculated that at the commencement of this period only ten per cent. of the population received elementary education, and that was frequently of a very imperfect kind. Since then, as we have seen, provision has been made for bringing education within the reach of all, and of late years, especially, there has been a rapid improvement. Besides the schoolroom, indeed, there are now many other educational agencies at work, which were unknown to former generations. The cheap newspaper press, periodical literature, public libraries, mechanics' institutes, public meetings—all perform their share in this great work. The facilities for travelling afforded by the railways, give working-men opportunities for seeing more of the world, and enlarging their experience.

4. The state of morality in a nation is correctly

indicated by the character of its sports and pastimes. Judged by this standard, the people of the present day differ widely for the better from their ancestors of the last century. Such debasing pursuits as dog-fighting and cock-fighting have almost entirely disappeared. The amusements which now present the greatest attraction are: rifle-shooting, cricket, football, boating, bicycling, &c. Or, in lieu of any of these, the working-man perhaps takes his wife and children to the sea-side for a few days by cheap excursion, and is thus enabled to inhale the pure air from the ocean, free from the city's smoke.

5. Instead of spending their leisure at Bath and other places as formerly, the upper and middle classes frequently make Continental tours, or yachting voyages to the Mediterranean or Norway. The picturesque scenery of the Scottish Highlands also attracts its full quota of visitors every year; and the wild glens and breezy moorlands, where, in the last century, it was dangerous for a southerner to show his face—as is faithfully attested by 'Baillie Nicol Jarvie's' adventurous visit to the dwelling of 'Rob Roy'—now afford health and recreation to shoals of overworked business men from our crowded cities.



## LESSON LXV.

**The Working of the British Constitution.**

1. The British constitution consists of two great branches, the legislative power, and the executive power. The basis of the constitution is, that the legislative power, that is, the power of making, altering, or repealing the laws, belongs to parliament alone. Parliament consists of three constituent parts, which serve to balance each other, and prevent any one part from obtaining a preponderating influence. These three parts are, the queen (or king), lords, and commons, generally termed the three estates of the realm. The House of Commons, or the Lower House, consists of the representatives of the people, as elected by them in the several counties, cities, boroughs, and universities. When this was written, namely in 1883, the House of Commons contained about 650 members.

2. The House of Peers, or the Upper House, comprises the lords spiritual, that is, the archbishops and bishops of the Established Church; and the lords temporal, whatever may be their titles, such as dukes, marquises, earls, &c. The privilege of a seat in this chamber is hereditary, and, consequently, the number of members varies from time to time.

3. The queen alone can convoke parliament, or prorogue or dissolve it. When parliament first meets for business, after either a prorogation or dissolution, it is absolutely necessary that it should

be formally opened by the queen in person, or by her representative. This ceremony being over, the sovereign departs, and parliament enters upon its function of law-making, and goes on from session to session until dissolved. The full duration of parliament is seven years. No legislative enactment or bill can become law until it has been sanctioned or 'read' three times by both Houses after full discussion, and has finally received the royal assent. Practically, the sovereign never refuses assent to measures that have passed both Houses of Parliament. The House of Commons possesses this most important privilege, that all bills for granting money out of the public funds must have their beginning here. The Lords cannot initiate a money bill, neither can they alter one sent up to them. They are expected simply to accept or reject it.

4. The executive power, that is, the carrying out of the laws of the realm, is nominally vested in the sovereign; but in our time, the sovereign rules solely through and by the advice of her ministers for the time being. The principal ministers, to the number of about twelve, form what is called the Cabinet, which is presided over by the Prime Minister. When the cabinet is defeated in parliament on any important measure, it generally resigns, and makes way for the other party in the state, which is called the opposition. The queen is the source of all judicial power in the state, and is thus the head of all the courts of law; and the judges are only her *substitutes*. In this capacity also, she has the *power of pardoning offenders*. As the fountain of

honour, the queen confers all titles and dignities, and creates new peers. She disposes also of the different public offices, and grants them to those whom she thinks best fitted to hold them. The sovereign is also the superintendent of commerce, and in this position has the power of regulating weights and measures, and of coining money. As the supreme head of the Church, the queen has the appointment of archbishops and bishops. In right of her crown, she is at the head of all the sea and land forces. She alone can levy troops, equip fleets, build fortresses, and fill up the posts in them. Finally, the sovereign has the power of declaring war, making peace, contracting alliances, and of sending and receiving ambassadors.

5. Under the British constitution there is little fear of the sovereign abusing these privileges. In all the capacities we have enumerated, she rules solely through her cabinet ministers, and they are responsible to parliament for all they do. Any attempt, therefore, to act contrary to the will of the nation would at once be checked by the House of Commons, who hold the purse strings, and could speedily bring a tyrannical executive to reason by withholding supplies.

6. The executive power comes into contact with the great mass of the people, chiefly in the administration of the law. The liberty of the subject is secured by the Habeas Corpus Act, trial by jury, and the independence of the judges. The chief law courts of the country are held in the magnificent pile of buildings known as the Royal Courts of Justice.



opened by the queen in 1882. Besides these, the House of Lords acts as the highest, and therefore the final court of appeal in the land. For the purpose of administering justice in the country, assizes are held four times a year in different towns. They are presided over by one judge, and are known as courts of commission, because the judge is commissioned to go into certain districts to try cases in her majesty's name. Minor offences are dealt with at quarter sessions, petty sessions, and in the ordinary police courts.

7. The constitution which we have just described provides in the first place for the government of Great Britain and Ireland. Beyond the British Islands, however, are our extensive colonies and possessions, covering one-sixth of the land surface of the globe, and containing a population of about 260 millions, which with the 35 millions at home, raise the population of the empire to a total of about 300 millions. The British parliament exercises control more or less over the whole of this vast dominion. Most of the colonies, however, such as Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Cape Colony, have the privilege of self-government, that is, they have parliaments of their own choosing for the management of their own affairs. India, on the other hand, is directly dependent on the British crown and parliament, who appoint the Viceroy or Governor-general, while at home there is a Secretary of State for India, who is a member of the ministry.



## SUMMARY OF EVENTS.

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### HOUSE OF STUART—(*continued*).

	A.D.
Flight of King James to France.....	1688
William and Mary ascend the Throne : Battle of Killiecrankie.....	1689
Battle of the Boyne.....	1690
Battle off Cape La Hogue.....	1692
Death of Mary.....	1694
Treaty of Ryswick.....	1697
Act of Settlement.....	1701
Queen Anne : War of the Spanish Succession.....	1702
Gibraltar taken : Battle of Blenheim.....	1704
Battle of Ramilies.....	1706
Union with Scotland.....	1707
Tories in Power.....	1710
Peace of Utrecht.....	1713

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### HOUSE OF HANOVER.

George I.....	1714
First Jacobite Insurrection.....	1715
South Sea Bubble.....	1720
Walpole's Ministry begins.....	1721
George II.....	1727
Death of Queen Caroline.....	1737
War with Spain.....	1739
War of the Austrian Succession : Anson's Voyage begins.....	1740
Battle of Dettingen.....	1743
Second Jacobite Insurrection : Battle of Fontenoy.....	1745
Battle of Culloden.....	1746

	A.D.
Seven Years' War begins.....	1756
Pitt's Government : Battle of Plassey.....	1757
Taking of Quebec.....	1759
 George III. (early period).....	1760
Resignation of Pitt.....	1761
Peace with France.....	1763
Stamp Act.....	1765
Tea in Boston Harbour thrown Overboard.....	1773
Battle of Lexington Bunker Hill.....	1775
Declaration of American Independence.....	1776
Surrender of the British at Saratoga.....	1777
War with France and Spain.....	1778
Surrender of the English at Yorktown.....	1781
England acknowledges the Independence of America.....	1783
The Younger Pitt is Prime Minister.....	1783
India Bill passed.....	1784
Pitt's Scheme of Parliamentary Reform rejected.....	1785
Trial of Warren Hastings.....	1788
 French Revolution begins.....	1789
War with France.....	1793
Battle of First of June.....	1794
Battle of St Vincent.....	1797
Irish Rebellion Battle of the Nile.....	1798
Union of Great Britain and Ireland.....	1801
Peace of Amiens.....	1802
War with France renewed.....	1803
Napoleon becomes Emperor.....	1804
Battle of Trafalgar.....	1805
Death of Pitt Death of Fox.....	1806
Peninsular War Battle of Vimiera.....	1808
Battle of Corunna Talavera Walcheren Expedition.....	1809
Massena foiled before the lines of Torres Vedras.....	1810
Battle of Salamanca: War with America.....	1812
Battle of Vittoria.....	1813
Battle of Toulouse : Napoleon is sent to Elba.....	1814
Battle of Waterloo : Treaty of Paris.....	1815
Manchester Massacre.....	1819
 George IV.....	1820
Death of Napoleon at St Helena.....	1821
Catholic Emancipation Act passed.....	1829

# SUMMARY OF EVENTS.

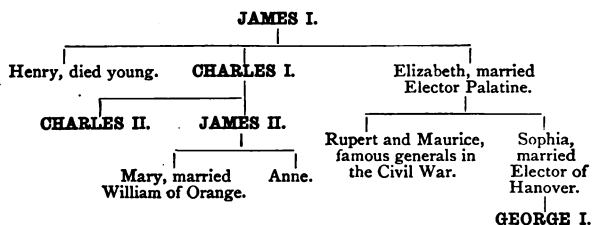
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	A.D.
William IV.....	1830
Reform Bill passed.....	1832
Abolition of Slavery: Poor-Law Amendment Act.....	1834
Municipal Reform Act.....	1835
Queen Victoria.....	1837
Anti-Corn-Law League.....	1839
Queen's Marriage.....	1840
Disasters in Afghanistan.....	1842
Repeal of the Corn Laws.....	1846
Death of Sir Robert Peel.....	1850
Great Exhibition.....	1851
Death of the Duke of Wellington.....	1852
War with Russia.....	1854
Fall of Sebastopol.....	1855
Treaty of Paris.....	1856
Indian Mutiny.....	1857
Government of India transferred to the Crown.....	1858
Second Reform Bill.....	1867
Disestablishment of the Irish Church.....	1869
Education Act.....	1870
Ballot Act.....	1872
War between Russia and Turkey.....	1877
Treaty of Berlin: English Invasion of Afghanistan.....	1878
Zulu War.....	1879
Irish Land Bill.....	1881
Victory of Tel-el-Kebir.....	1882



## GENEALOGICAL TABLES.

FAMILY TREE SHOWING HOW THE HOUSE OF HANOVER WAS  
CONNECTED WITH THE STUART LINE.



## HOUSE OF HANOVER.

